Remixing OER to Share the Beauty & Power of Calculus.

Have you seen your students disengage from your calculus class in the first weeks as they struggle with the technical topic of limits? They don’t see the point, get mired in the algebra, and can become alienated. I’ll share why I save limits for later, and how I start out with an exciting and historical approach using slope and velocity.

But perhaps your textbook, like mine, follows a traditional sequence? I’ll also share how I used parts of two Open Educational Resources (OER), one by Matt Boelkins and one by Dale Hoffman, along with a few pages I created, to make a coursepack for my first unit. [Link to modifiable materials provided at talk, or by email.] Their materials gave my students the support they needed in our excursions off the traditional textbook’s beaten path.

I’ll help you see why there’s a better order to the topics. (It’s not just the limits.) And I’ll show you one way to make calculus fun for yourself and your students.

Use the experiences I share in my talk as inspiration to help you get started remixing OER to develop your own approach and materials. Using these materials in a coursepack alongside the required text may also be a way to show your reluctant department that they don’t need those $200-plus conventional textbooks. (Received September 19, 2015)