

# HOCKING COLLEGE

*KEEPING IT ALL IN CONTEXT---A FIRE SCIENCE AND ENGLISH  
PILOT PROJECT*

# A Brief History...

- 1) Over the last four Autumns, we have enrolled an average of 15 Fire Science students in each English 0054 class, a developmental class that focuses on reading and essay writing skills.
- 2) Using the Fire Science text and other high interest materials, students learn vocabulary, improve communication skills, and write their first English class essays.

# Results...

- 1) Not counting those who stopped attending, withdrew, or were no-shows, our English 0054 student retention rates have averaged 92%.
- 2) When we do count those who stopped attending, withdrew, or were no-shows, our English 0054 student retention rates have averaged 68%.

# Challenges...

- 1) Contextualized instruction requires commitment, collaboration, and a willingness to continue to work together in partnership.
- 2) Contextualized instruction requires increased class preparation time and planning, especially in the beginning.
- 3) Although consistent class attendance in both classes has improved dramatically, the students who fail are still those who do not attend class regularly.