Incorporating Information Literacy Assessments Into Course Assignments

200 level Fashion Merchandising

Original Assignment: Research a company you might consider employment with, including size, structure, earnings, philosophy, history and competition.

Restructured: Include information that indicates how the company sees itself and how others, (on the outside) perceive the company. What is the difference and why is this important to this assignment?

English Composition

A research journal with guided questions.

Math

Original Assignment: Students use geographical figures such as latitude/longitude and altitude as part of math equations they are solving.

Restructured: Students look up portions of their equations in reference books and then explain what the reference book could be used for in the future.

Original Assignment: Students use a statistical chart to analyze trends.

Restructured: Students look up the statistical chart in a reference book, along with a second reference book that does analysis of the topic. Students evaluate the reference books according to criteria developed in class and explain why it was a good choice for their topic.

Dental Hygiene

Original Assignment: Students discussed what is appropriate information for a patient vs. themselves on health issues such as AIDS.

Restructured: Students find one article on a health or immune system topic that would be useful for a patient, and one on the same topic that would be useful for themselves. They compare and contrast and say why they are a good choice for each group.

100 level Speech Class

Original Assignment: Students submitted bibliographies that documented their sources for a speech.

Restructured: Students submit a topic worksheet and bibliography to the library faculty member and discuss it at an appointment. The worksheet documents their vocabulary, topic development and rationale for selecting the resources they did. Topic is approved by the instructor only after this appointment. The worksheet becomes part of the grade for the speech.

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History

Students writing a paper on the Vietnam War are to examine the same concept in a chronology, a specialized encyclopedia and a specialized dictionary and compare/contrast the type of information.

Sociology

Students do the same search in Sociological Abstracts and ProQuest. How are the results different? The Same? What makes them different? How would you characterize the type of information found in each? Which is better for your topic and why?

Anthropology

Students locate articles on the Macah whale hunt issue in Washington state in both Ethnic NewsWatch and the Seattle Times or ProQuest. The ENW article should be a Native American publication. Students compare and contrast the language in the Native American publication and the newspaper, as well as the types of information and articles found in the 2 databases.

Education – Junior Methods Course

Print and computer sources, as well as experts in the field, are excellent resources for new teachers. Shadow and interview an administrator or supervisor in an early childhood program. Through conversations with them, and your own research, identify the 8 most critical reference, journals, and database resources for ECE and the 2 most critical websites. Justify the inclusion of each on your list. Make a separate paragraph for the “11th” source and explain why it was 11th instead of 10th.

Sociology – Senior Seminar

Each student takes one work from the required readings. Who else has build on this core work? What has been done with this idea since the date of publication?

English – To encourage students to write to a student audience instead of to the instructor

In groups of 4, each student explains their research topic to the other 3 students. Each student is to find one article on each of the other students’ topics and develop 3 questions they would like to see answered in the student paper or project.

Portfolio of Progressive Assignments

Students have the same type of assignment in each of the 4 academic years with increasing expectations of analysis and reflection. Student can choose to do the assignment with any assigned research paper in any course. Librarian provides questions to direct the student responses.

Junior or Senior Thesis

Within the junior or senior thesis, students are required to synthesize and evaluate the research process they used through a set of guided questions; it becomes part of the evaluation of the thesis.
Exam Question:

Explain some of the criteria you used in evaluating sources for the research papers in this course.

Student Self Assessment

What are the important parts of this research assignment? How well have I done this? How do I know?

Describe the 3-5 most important things you learned about: the research process while doing this assignment, and B) yourself as a researcher while doing this assignment.

Briefly describe the assignment. What was it about?
Give 1 or 2 examples of your most successful research techniques or "finds". Explain what made them successful or good.
Give 1 or 2 examples, if relevant, of less successful research techniques or sources. What makes you say they are less successful?
The next time you confront a similar situation, what if anything could you do differently to increase your learning, research methods and productivity?

Looking at the information literacy outcome, which of these would you say you have accomplished through this assignment? Briefly explain why and how.