Information Literacy Assignments that Work

- Communicate the value of inquiry
- Require application of diverse information seeking strategies
- Entail topic development
- Recognize that different types of resources are appropriate for different information needs
- Expose students to a variety of resources
- Promote critical evaluation
- Incorporate ethical considerations of information use
- Enrich the subject of study and are tied to the grade
- Require practice finding and using information for a specific purpose
- Reinforce IL within different disciplines and at different developmental levels

Is your assignment...

**Relevant**
Does it support your course outcomes?
Is it linked clearly to the topics, subjects, and/or the texts you’re discussing in class?

**Appropriate to student level**
Does it require knowledge or skills that students don’t already possess?
Do your students need a library workshop or other instruction to bridge gaps?

**Clear**
Are the objectives and directions clear and easy to follow?
Will students understand what you’re asking them to do and why?

**Flexible**
Can students make some choices about their topic or their approach?
Could a verity of resources be used?
BONUS: Creative and flexible assignments less prone to plagiarism.

**Accurate & Field Tested**
Are titles, locations, citations, Web sites, databases or call numbers accurate and up-to-date?
Have you consulted a librarian to be sure the resources are current?

**Doable**
Is there enough information available to complete the assignment successfully?
Is the due date or time-frame realistic?

**Free of Library Jargon**
Did you define library terms in your directions?
Have you clarified terms like abstract annotation, citation, index, scholarly journal, and popular magazine?

**Thought Provoking**
Does it encourage students to think critically about the information they find?
Does the level of analysis match the objectives and the students’ preparation?