



Humanities Competencies

COMMUNICATION

Articulate and write coherent explanations and arguments with attention to the implications of language.

What it Looks Like

Humanities students study the art of communicating to inform and persuade in speaking as well as writing. Many humanities courses emphasize open discussion, drafting, and feedback, which allow you to fully develop your analysis. Disciplines in the Humanities encourage you to think of yourself as a writer; as someone who isn't intimidated by the opportunity to create your own narrative. It teaches you to tell a story, be it creative or critical, descriptive or persuasive, and share it with an audience. Few disciplines focus on writing to this extent.

Communicating effectively requires that you know your audience and your relationship to them. Writing critically involves care. It requires awareness of other perspectives and of nuances in words and ideas. It also requires self-awareness and the conscious use of form and conventions to communicate strategically. A critical writer is a discerning reader who appreciates how texts are put together and how narratives work, taking lessons from other writers to contribute something new.

Key Questions

- What have I learned about writing critically within my own academic discipline?
- What have I learned about how the elements of effective writing work?
- What am I learning about voice and tone, coherence and clarity?
- How do I adapt my writing based on genre, audience, type of assignment?
- How do I craft an argument to be as persuasive as possible?
- How do I treat evidence and how do I make it interesting?
- What is the relationship between writing and speaking?
- How are the principles of good writing also principles of effective speaking?
- Does my development as a writer influence my abilities as a speaker?
- How does the process of formulating my thoughts and expressing my ideas impromptu provide practice for more formal speaking?