



Humanities Competencies

Information Literacy

Locate credible information, identify patterns, and narrate their connections to relevant contexts.

What it Looks Like

Perhaps more than any other competency, gathering and making sense of good information for specific purposes and audiences is becoming increasingly valuable in our society. As information becomes more accessible, we must filter out inaccurate and irrelevant material, and learn to discriminate for the most sound and substantive sources. Almost every sector of professional and civic life depends upon people with high proficiency in this area. Many advanced courses in the humanities involve projects that employ this competency, encouraging you to become a sophisticated researcher and analyst. Effective interpretation involves processing and translating your ideas, and then communicating those ideas using conventions dictated by the situation. It typically culminates in a story or argument that persuades others to consider your point-of-view.

Key Questions

- What have I learned about the process of identifying core questions and themes? How does that relate to problem posing/solving?
- How do I think through challenges of breadth and depth as I begin my research?
- How do I decide what kinds of sources I need and where to go to find them?
- What goes into my final decisions about which sources to include and which to ignore?
- How has interpreting information played an important role in my own academic study?
- What steps do I take to create an original argument using others' opinions and research as support?
- How do I carefully examine selected material, finding evidence addressing my theme or question?
- How do I evaluate the quality, credibility, or relevance of a source?
- How do I interpret information based on my audience and/or purpose?