

Faculty Information Literacy Stipend Final Report

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Course: ANTH 3301: HEALTH, HEALING & ETHICS

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Introduction

My purpose in proposing this Information Literacy Project was to improve the way I teach my students about news sources for health topics in the course. Following lecture and practice on a number of journalistic principles including transparency, ethical and credible information sourcing, and balanced point of view, students choose a health-related current issue and identify 3 news reports on it. They must identify 2 “hard news” sources and 1 bad example of ethical journalism in the news, and write about the quality and impact of each article. In the process, students are learning the differences between news reports, feature columns, news aggregation vehicles, and other types of media. Later in the course, students use these articles as part of an assignment on moral reasoning specific to the course.

Method of assessment

Following some wonderful instruction by my Librarian colleagues, the students were given a homework assignment to select 3 articles meeting Information Literacy assignment goals - namely, an annotated bibliography of 3 news pieces. The attached rubric was used to evaluate the “3 articles check-in” and all students assigned a grade based on that rubric (in Canvas).

Results and impact on student learning

The average score was 28/30 and all students achieved a score of 3/5 or higher on all rubric items.

RUBRIC RESULTS	Score of 5	Score of 4	Score of 3	Score of 2	Score of 1
Item 1	25	2	1	0	0
Item 2	13	10	5	0	0
Item 3	13	13	2	0	0
Item 4	13	14	1	0	0
Item 5	28	0	0	0	0
Item 6	22	4	2	0	0

The overall impact of these results was that only 7 students had any errors in their choice of hard news items for the (later) News Log assignment, and 4 of these were due to students changing topics between the Info. Literacy assignment (i.e., the annotated bibliography) and the News Log assignment. I consider this a very positive outcome which represents a greater level of independent understanding in students than I had achieved in past semesters.

Summary and next steps

The three of us have met as a team to evaluate the success of this initiative and have set the following goals for improvement in our next iteration:

1. Efforts will be made to “flip the classroom”, namely to assign reading homework prior to the first lecture so that lecture time can be spent more in discussion.
2. The two Info. Literacy sessions need to move up in the semester, so that there is a bit more time between the Annotated Bibliography assignment and the News Log #1 assignment.
3. Rather than ask for “two good and one bad” hard news item in the Info. Literacy assignment, we will ask for “two good hard news, and one piece of bad reporting/not Opinion”.

4. The revised assignment and rubric will be uploaded to the Canvas Commons for use by other professors.
5. The two Info. Literacy sessions will be held in the classroom, in hopes of promoting greater student engagement.

Appendix

Please see attachments.