

Recommendations for Identifying Assignments for Information Literacy Assessment

What do we evaluate when we assess information literacy?

1. The ability to find information sources appropriate to the assignment and discipline
2. The format and type of information cited is appropriate for the assignment and discipline
3. Information cited is accurate, credible, and relevant to the topic
4. The information sources used are integrated into the assignment appropriately
5. Information is accessed and used legally and ethically, including correct use of citations

Identifying assignments for information literacy assessment

1. Uses outside sources, such as scholarly articles or books, primary sources, news, government reports, etc..., especially if students have to find these sources themselves

Example assignment criteria: Students must use three scholarly sources and two news articles to propose a solution to a current health equity concern

2. Asks students to evaluate or critique the way information is produced, presented, organized, disseminated, accessed, or valued

Example assignment criteria: Students writing a literature review on sustainable agriculture should address any gaps or future areas for research in the conclusion

3. Asks students to position their idea or arguments in a scholarly/disciplinary/topical conversation, or traces the development, key points, and important considerations of an element of that conversation

Example assignment criteria: Students analyze an artwork through the lens of a specific theory

4. Does not have to be a traditional essay or term paper: podcasts, research posters, lit reviews/bibliographies, videos, websites, and many other types of assignments are also useful for assessing information literacy

Example assignment criteria: Students must produce a 10-minute podcast on an element of Riverside history that includes three primary sources and a total of 10 sources

5. Not all artifacts have to be the final outcome or assignment of a course! Assessment or other components of the assignment completed along the way can also offer valuable insight into students' information skills.

Example assignment criteria: Students creating an annotated bibliography mid-quarter for a final essay assignment on child development include their rationale for the sources they've selected