

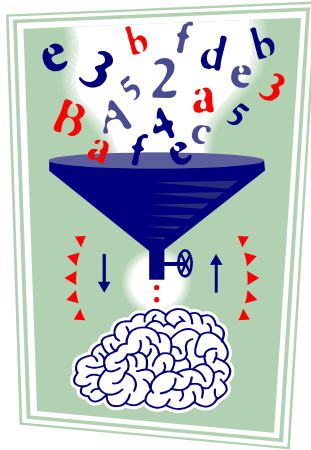
## Designing Library-Based Assignments



### Effective Library-Based Assignments Help Students Develop Information Literacy

- Assignments should be linked to the five standards for Information Literacy:
  - Know
  - Access
  - Evaluate
  - Use
  - Ethics

*Standard 1: Know*



*Standard 1: Know*

*The HCC student will*

- Determine the nature and extent of information needed
- Understand why sources are important in analyzing and supporting one's own thoughts in order to produce new ideas and information

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*Standard 2: Access*



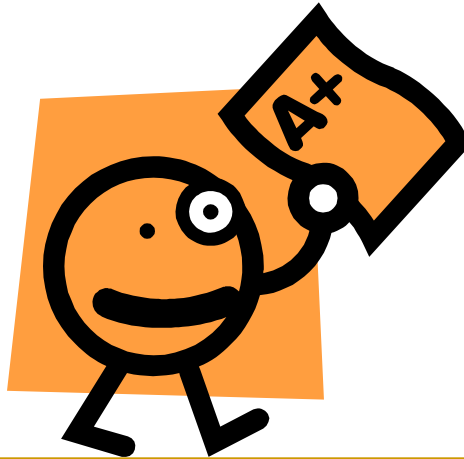
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*Standard 2: Access*

*The HCC student will*

- Access needed information effectively and efficiently
  - Know that the library and librarians are important resources to consult
  - Understand various methods of investigation and research
  - Recognize the breadth of information and information retrieval systems
  - Develop a search strategy
  - Conduct a search using all resources of the library
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### *Standard 3: Evaluate*



### *Standard 3: Evaluate*

*The HCC student will*

- Evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into his knowledge base and value system
- Evaluate sources to determine reliability, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and bias
- Investigate differing viewpoints in the research
- Recognize the value of information literacy in one's professional and personal life

*Standard 4: Use*



*Standard 4: Use*

*The HCC student will*

- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Use the research effectively to support the thesis of the text
- Create a system for organizing the researched information
- Think critically in evaluating the effectiveness of the research project

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## Standard 5: *Ethics*



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## Standard 5: Ethics

*The HCC student will*

- Understand many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and will access and use information ethically and legally
  - Understand the concept of intellectual property and the means for avoiding plagiarism
  - Correctly and fairly incorporate research into the text using the appropriate documentation style
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## An Effective Library-Based Assignment...



## An Effective Library-Based Assignment

- Is clearly directed toward a specific purpose
- Directly relates to course content
- Focuses on the process of finding information
- Increases understanding of a subject
- Introduces the wide variety of information sources and formats available
- Gives students practice in selecting relevant information sources for their topics
- Gives students practice in evaluating the quality of the information found
- Provides practice in using and documenting sources ethically

## Consult with a Librarian

to ensure that the assignment avoids common pitfalls...

- Crowd Scene
- Mystery Tour
- Scavenger Hunt
- Wrong Turn

## Crowd Scene



## Crowd Scene

- Avoid giving the same topic to everyone in the class. To do so is sure to invite frustration.
- Do not assume that students can choose an appropriately narrowed topic without your assistance.

## Mystery Tour



## Mystery Tour

- Be sure that the information you include in your assignment is accurate and up-to-date.
- Double check that the resources you require (e.g., a specific web site) are still available.

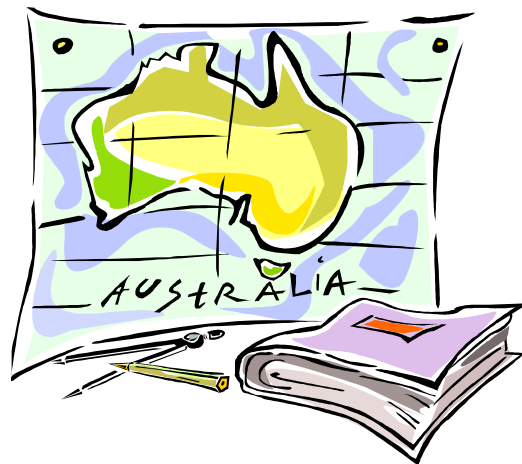
## Scavenger Hunt



## Scavenger Hunt

- Librarians categorically state that this is the worst kind of assignment.
- Asking students to find random, esoteric bits of information that they will not use is both frustrating and a waste of time.

## Wrong Turn



## Wrong Turn

- Do not assume that students are familiar with the basics of research in HCC's library.
- Students need instruction on using internet resources and databases.
- Students also need instruction on using the physical resources in HCC's library.

## Prepare your students

- Explain why this assignment is required
- Explain how this assignment is related to the course
- Explain the goal of the assignment
- Preview the library homepage
- Discuss the elements of researching that will be required to complete the assignment

## Provide a Written Assignment



## Provide a Written Assignment

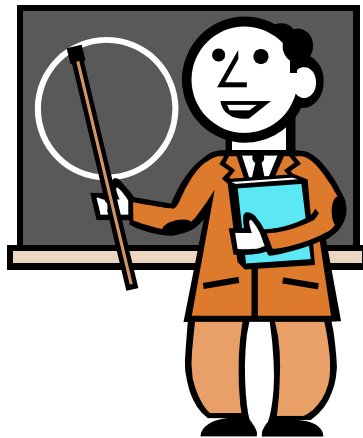
- Assume minimal library knowledge
- Require a specific topic for research
- Suggest specific types of resources to be used
- Review the specific research strategies needed to complete the assignment
- Teach appropriate documentation for the information resources required

For sample library-based assignments...

- HCC's Teaching and Learning Institute

[www.howardcc.edu/tli/resources/teaching\\_resources.htm](http://www.howardcc.edu/tli/resources/teaching_resources.htm)

Complete the Assignment Yourself



## Complete the Assignment Yourself

- Be sure all required resources are available
- Be sure your assignment is in line with current ways of accessing information
- Allow a reasonable time frame for completion of the assignment

## For more information on designing library-based assignments...

University of California San Diego

<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/instruction-assigntips.html>

University of Maryland Libraries

[www.lib.umd.edu/UES/assignment.html](http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/assignment.html)

University of Maryland University College

[www.umuc.edu/library/tutorials/information\\_literacy/sect4.html](http://www.umuc.edu/library/tutorials/information_literacy/sect4.html)



The End

