

Information Literacy Competency Exam [100 points]

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Overview

This final competency examination will build off your midterm examination project. You will rework your midterm examination topic and your three midterm exam resources. You must complete this examination on your own. You are not to ask any librarian, faculty member, or fellow student for assistance. *This must be your own work*, written in your own words. If you have any specific questions about this exam, please talk to or email me. You must write the exam in a **narrative** format (not in outline) and justify all your choices (*see the example A exam*). In grading the exam I will consider the rationale you provide to justify your choice of specific items. I will also grade you on your choice of resource selection (*i.e.*, indexes, reference books, databases, etc.). More points will be awarded for the use of *appropriate* resources (*i.e.*, those that cover your chosen topic).

Step One: Locate one more reference resource and rework your midterm examination thesis statement, research questions, and keywords/subject headings

1. Locate an additional reference resource on your topic that will help you think more deeply about your research topic. Tell me which database you used to search for your reference resource, explain how you searched, and tell me what new information this reference resource provides you in reworking your thesis statement and research questions. Provide an MLA citation and screen capture.
2. Unless you received 100% on your midterm thesis statement, research questions and keywords/subject headings you will need to rework them. You should respond to my comments on your midterm and edit your thesis statement and research questions to make them clearer and more direct, and if necessary develop your topic focus to make it more precise. Consider additional keywords and subject headings that you may want to use to search for additional resources.

Step Two: Rework your three midterm examination resources

1. Look over my comments on your three midterm exam resources. If they were all useful resources then consider my comments related to your explanations and evaluations. Develop your explanations and/or evaluations if they were vague or needed more detail. Use my comments on your exam to address the shortcomings.
2. If one or more of your resources were not that useful in supporting your topic, then search for a new resource and replace it. Explain how you searched for each new resource, including which database you used. Explain how each resource supports your topic focus and thesis statement, and evaluate each new resource. Include an MLA citation for each new resource as well as a screen capture of the database record.

Step Three: Locate nine additional resources that will provide you with information to support your research topic, thesis statement and questions

1. Locate an additional 9 books, scholarly journal articles, magazine articles and/or newspaper articles or specialized web pages that will elaborate on various aspects of your topic. The goal is to locate the best and most appropriate resources which will support specific aspects

of your topic focus. You choose the distribution of your resources based upon your research needs.

- a. Create an MLA citation for each book, magazine, journal or newspaper article, and provide a screen capture of *each* item record.
- b. Tell me which database or web portal/directory you used to search for each item. Tell me exactly how you searched for each item, *i.e.*, keyword, subject heading, or other type of search. Write down your exact search phrases, including any advanced search techniques such as Boolean operators or truncation, or how you browsed using the web portal directory. Provide an explanation of your search approach to help me understand why you searched the way you did.
- c. Justify why you think each book, article, or web page is valuable for supporting your research topic and focus; *include the criteria you used for evaluating the items for reliability, authority, accuracy, and point of view*. What evidence do you have that the author, publisher, or journal is reliable, accurate and authoritative? What other resources did you check to verify this information?
- d. Make sure to tell me which books are available through the MCTC Library. If you locate a book in another library, tell me which library.
- e. If the article is not available full-text in the database, and the MCTC Library does not own the periodical in print, tell me how you would retrieve a copy of the article?

Step Four: Put it all together and hand in a completed final examination project
Your completed exam is due by Wednesday, May 6th at 11:45 a.m. Upload your completed exam to the Final Exam Dropbox. Exams submitted after this time must be uploaded to the Final Exam – LATE dropbox. No exam can be submitted after 11:45 a.m. Monday, May 10.

Final Exam Submission Check List

Make sure you have included the following in your exam:

- ✓ Your final thesis statement
- ✓ Your final research questions
- ✓ Your final keywords, keyword phrases, and official subject headings that you used to search for your resources
- ✓ 2 reference resources with an explanation of how each helps you develop your topic focus, with a MLA citation and screen capture for each.
- ✓ A total of 12 books, magazine articles, scholarly journal articles, newspaper articles, or web pages with detailed information on how you searched for each resource, a justification for why each resource supports your research topic, an evaluation of each resource, a MLA citation for each resource, and a screen capture for each resource.

Penalties

- You will be deducted one point for each screen capture that you do not include in your exam.
- You will be deducted two points for each resource that you are short of the total required.
- A late exam will automatically be deducted two points per day it is late.
- Your citations must be in MLA format. Consult your MLA citation style handout if you have questions.