

Information Literacy Toolkit

Introduction

The Information Literacy Toolkit was developed by Dr. Kristin Leaman and Dr. E. C. McGregor Boyle at Purdue University to provide tangible materials and guidance for introductory composition instructors to embed information literacy in their courses. Dr. Leaman was the instructor of record for an introductory composition course (English 108) at Purdue University and piloted materials from the Information Literacy Toolkit during Fall 2022 and 2023. Based on the feedback from students and assessments by Dr. Leaman and Dr. Boyle, this Information Literacy Toolkit has been developed and refined based on students' needs for navigating their information landscape, critical thinking, and critical writing. Furthermore, the Information Literacy Toolkit moves instructors away from the idea that a one-time visit from a librarian fulfills information literacy goals for their students and demonstrates how they can embed these practices themselves with scaffolded assignments and activities.

There are three main assignments in this toolkit based on the Academic Rhetorics syllabus approach in Introductory Composition at Purdue (ICaP): 1.) Scholarly Article Analysis, 2.) Annotated Bibliography, and 3.) Researched Argument Essay. The Annotated Bibliography is part of the Research Argument Essay assignment to help guide students through their research and critical thinking processes. For each assignment, scaffolded activities and lesson plans are provided. These activities are flexible, so they can be amended for in-person and online courses. Moreover, they can be edited by the instructor to fit the specific needs of their class. While there is flexibility with the materials in this toolkit, it is imperative to keep the scaffolded nature of the activities and assignments. The scaffolding builds students' research and critical thinking and writing skills gradually, while also providing repetition and putting in to practice these skills. The Information Literacy Toolkit was intentionally designed with a scaffolded approach, as students need scaffolding, repetition, and practice to master information literacy skills.

Dr. Leaman and Dr. Boyle also encourage instructors to make use of Foundations of the Research Process, short video tutorials created by Sarah Reifel at Purdue University. Link:

https://mediaspace.itap.purdue.edu/media/Selecting+a+Research+Topic/1_ymrbr7

[zo](#) These video tutorials pair nicely with many of the assignments and activities and provide further context and repetition for students. For example, students can watch the “Selecting a Database for your Research Topic” video tutorial before they come to class to for their “Database Exploration Activity.”

An Archival and Primary Source Literacy Toolkit created by Dr. Leaman and Professor Adriana Harmeyer was also developed and employed during Dr. Leaman’s Fall 2022 and 2023 introductory compositions course. This toolkit can be accessed via Purdue ePubs here: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/alt/>

Dr. Leaman and Dr. Boyle would like to thank Professor Melissa Chomintra for her expertise and time in designing the lesson plan and activity on mis/disinformation in this toolkit. Introductory composition instructors at Purdue University and beyond are encouraged to explore and employ this Information Literacy Toolkit. Please reach out to Dr. Leaman at leamankb@purdue.edu with any questions about the Information Literacy Toolkit.