Information Literacy Skill-Building Strategies

Authority is Constructed and Contextual (please click on link to view poster)

Skills to practice

• Critically examine information from various sources in order to evaluate accuracy, authority, currency, and point of view

• Identify usefulness and relevance of information sources for an assignment or purpose

• Recognize a scholarly, peer-reviewed article and identify its key components

Strategies

Have students engage with different types of authority and develop skills for identifying credibility. Consider: What are the markers of authority in your discipline?

Information Creation as a Process (please click on link to view poster)

Skills to practice

• Distinguish among types of sources (e.g., books, journal articles, primary/secondary, scholarly/popular, etc.)

• Use sources to support an argument or claim with evidence

• Select appropriate format (e.g., academic paper, digital project, poster, presentation) to communicate information based on audience and purpose

Strategies

Discuss the different ways information is created depending on its purpose. Consider: Who are the gatekeepers (professional organizations, publishing companies, etc.) that shape the information creation process in your field?

Information Has Value (please click on link to view poster)

Skills to practice

• Recognize when ideas need to be attributed to others and what is "common knowledge"

• Using the ideas of others through quoting and paraphrasing

• Identify citation elements and document sources accurately

Strategies

Lead students to appreciate that information is valuable in and of itself, as a way to educate and also as a means to influence. Set an example of properly attributing sources and expect students to do the same (and not simply to avoid plagiarism). Consider: In what ways does your discipline embrace or reject notions of intellectual property rights?

Research as Inquiry (please click on link to view poster)

Skills

• Recognize that research is a process that requires persistence, adaptability, and flexibility

• Formulate research question of an appropriate scope for assignment or purpose

• Evaluate information and explore multiple perspectives while maintaining an open mind and critical stance

Strategies

Assist students in identifying the appropriate research method to undertake depending on their question. Scaffold research assignments so students can master and build upon their new skills. Convey the importance of consulting a variety of information sources to gain perspective and gather evidence to build an argument. Consider: Are there ways you can break complex assignments into simpler ones?

Scholarship as Conversation (please click on link to view poster)

Skills

• Understand that scholarship is a conversation in which meaning is created and debated over time

• Understand that an issue may be represented by multiple perspectives and approaches

• Identify the contribution particular information sources make within an ongoing scholarly conversation

• Engage with information in ways that demonstrate critical thinking and new understanding

• Recognize that knowledge can be organized into disciplines that influence the way information is discovered and accessed

• Recognize that participation in a scholarly conversation is impacted by power and authority structures, prioritizing certain voices and perspectives

Strategies

Help students view themselves as information producers,who are part of a larger conversation. Demonstrate the various reasons why it's important to cite the work you use. Discuss how to critically evaluate the contributions of others. Consider: In your course, how do students interact with, evaluate, produce, and share information in various formats and modes?

Searching as Strategic Exploration (please click on link to view poster)

Skills

• Develop an effective search strategy by identifying key concepts or terms

• Distinguish among information search tools (databases, Google Scholar, and others)

• Employ strategies to broaden/narrow search results (Boolean operators, search filters, etc.)

Strategies

Guide students to brainstorm how best to approach a given research assignment. Discuss the benefits of matching information needs and search strategies to appropriate search tools.