Information Literacy for First Year Students

From Context to Analysis: Evaluating Conversations around a Research Topic or Question.

Level: ENGL 133 (IL Class Module C)

Duration: 50-80 minutes (one class period)

Overview:

This class focuses on analyzing the different conversations found in selected academic and popular information sources to address specific information needs for English 133 papers/projects.

Based on the theme of the English 133 course, students will analyze a selection of information sources; reference, book, article, web site, blog, to identify information type, authority, purpose, and audience. Students will determine the characteristics of information conversations for specific sources surrounding the course theme. Students will also discuss how, when, and why a particular source could be useful for their research paper/project.

Competency:

Students should have the ability to identify, access, evaluate, and select information to fit defined needs. (General University Requirement: Foundations: Information Literacy)

Outcomes:

- Students will be able to evaluate:
  - the type of information found in selected resources
  - the intended audience of selected resources
  - the purpose of selected information resources
  - author(s) for authority

- Students will be able to articulate how, when, and why a particular type of information could be used in their research.

In Class Activities:

- Working in groups, students will scan/read assigned information source to identify:
  - 2 key ideas contained in the resource
  - the type of information contained in the resource. (overview, focused, primary, secondary, tertiary, popular, trade, academic)
D’Amour Library

• the audience of information contained in the resource
• the purpose of information contained in the resource

• Working in groups, students will evaluate author(s) for authority
• Students will share findings with class.

Components of Instruction:

• Meet in the Digital Learning Center (D215) in D’Amour Library or other designated location
• Discussion of different characteristics of information from different sources (5 minutes)
• Review of information evaluation of popular, trade, & scholarly information (3 minutes)
• Group analysis of assigned information resource. (10-15 minutes)
• Class discussion of the differences in type, audience, and purpose between information sources. How, when, and why could they be used. (20-25 minutes)
• If time permits: View LibGuide to identify specific tools to locate and access types of information sources discussed. (20-30 minutes). This will be the starting point of Module D.

Focus Questions:

• What types of information do different information sources provided?
• How do information sources differ in their purpose?
• How do information sources differ in audience?
• Where did the conversation start?
• How has the conversation evolved over time?
• What might have contributed to the conversation’s evolution?
• Who is talking about this information today?
• Where is the conversation going?
• How can the existing conversation contribute to moving forward?