Open Educational Resources   LaGuardia Community College

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Reading a Scholarly Publication

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Reflection #2: Reading a Scholarly Publication

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LIF 101, Liberal Arts: Social Sciences and Humanities

Abstract

This assignment was designed to reintroduce students to library resources and to give students an opportunity to examine scholarly publications in parts and in detail, without the pressure of using the article in a formal research paper, or having to understand the entire article.

To prepare for this assignment, we started class with a writing exercise to answer, "what makes something scholarly?" All responses were written on the board; together we identified common ideas that came up more than once. I added to their responses with a short lecture about the information cycle and how the process by which information is created determines whether a source is popular or scholarly. Then, we did a second writing exercise to answer, "what is the difference between data and information?" Using their responses, we create a shared definition for the two terms.

We tested our definitions using a scholarly article; I select a different article every semester, but last fall, I used: Wood, J. Luke, & Ireland, S. Mei-Yen. (2014). Supporting Black Male Community College Success: Determinants of Faculty-Student Engagement. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 38(2-3), 154-3), p.154-165. In small groups, students are given one paragraph from the article. Together, they are asked to:
- Summarize the main idea of the paragraph
- Look for the use of *information*
- Look for the use of *data*

After sharing out to the larger group, we talked about the overall purpose of the article, and how this type of scholarly information would be used during their time at LaGuardia and at Senior Colleges.

This assignment was due one week later and it was worth 10% of the overall grade.

LIF 101

Professor Silvia Lin Hanick

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100 points

Upload to your ePortfolio by Friday, 10/27

200-300 words

In your ePortfolio, find this section under "Classes & Projects" and then "LIF 101 - First Year Seminar"

For this assignment, you'll need to use the LaGuardia Library website: www.library.laguardia.edu

Instructions:
1. From the main page of the library website, click on:
   Articles & Books Online (Subscription Databases)
2. Choose on the subject category that is most appropriate for your major. If you're not sure, check with me.
3. Read the descriptions of the databases and select one that seems interesting.

Reflection:

1. Which database did you choose? Why?

2. Search the library database and find one academic journal article. What is the MLA citation for your article?

3. How do you know it is an academic journal article?

4. In most academic articles, facts and statistics, or DATA, are collected in order to answer a research question. What data does the article use to explore its research question? Where did this data come from? Write 2-3 sentences.

5. In most academic articles, previous studies and outside sources, or INFORMATION, are used to explain and support the article's conclusions. What information does the article use to explain and support the conclusions? How are information sources cited? Write 2-3 sentences.