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Adapting Information Literacy Course Materials for International Students

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Adapting Information Literacy Course Materials for International Students

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Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy
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1-minute “think”


How do you address information literacy at your institution?

Where do international students fit in?



Observation 1: **International** student can equal **uncomfortable** student, but a class of all international students can be a 'safe space'

Best Practice 1: have students work in groups; emphasize sharing of knowledge, learning together – avoids trap of 'deficit' thinking



Observation 2: recognize differences depending on student background and life situation

Country of origin, context (evening class, community college)

Best Practice 2: let that inform your responses and expectations; work in groups – leverage language (and life) knowledge of various students to help each other learn



Observation 3: International students may need more language support

Best practice 3: reconsider workflow--
Reading/video for homework with
extra support such as outline or notes

Lesson 1 Academic Integrity

- Provide handouts to support input – help develop vocabulary and support learning through enhancing comprehension
- <https://youtu.be/Kfmy9dt0Ymc?list=PLejNKcSoYbcCUolvO5r9OY-xO6gHvYiPJ>

Notes sheets to provide framework so can focus on ideas (reduce cognitive load)

Academic Integrity Video 1

Cheating includes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Plagiarism includes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Question: Why are these plagiarism?

video 2

When in doubt – CITE. Use a citation that includes the author's name and the name of the source. when deciding whether to cite or not, ask yourself:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If the answer to these is no, then I do not have to cite

True or false questions – discuss with classmates. Be able to support your answer.


Buying a paper on the internet is plagiarism.

It is OK to use a paper that I wrote for one class as a paper in another class.

If I summarize or paraphrase, I do not need a citation.

I can be thrown out of the university if I plagiarize.


If I am not sure whether to use a citation, I should not because it is bad to use it when it is not necessary.





Best Practice 4: reconsider workflow: provide extra opportunities in class for review

Review homework readings and online videos in class to ensure comprehension

- ▶ have them compare notes sheets
- ▶ have them work in pairs examining materials to make up questions for a quiz
- ▶ have pairs report on a certain aspect of a topic
 - ▶ Different types of bias
 - ▶ different aspects of evaluating a source
 - ▶ ideas???



However, in the end – a lot of the things I do for international students I also would do for domestic students because they also come from different backgrounds and have had different experiences as well and are also new to the university.



**What do think is the most important
issue you face in providing
information literacy education to
international students?**

Developing Information Literacy Skills

A GUIDE TO FINDING,
EVALUATING, AND
CITING SOURCES



Janine Carlock

MICHIGAN

*Forthcoming
Textbook*

*For more information,
contact Kelly Sippell
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Thank you!

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