

2011 foundation of inquiry

assessment

Evaluations of students work

Randomly selected 32 students work were evaluated using AAC&U critical thinking rubric regarding 2 criteria:

- Evidences: average on 1-2 on a 4 point scale:

Information is taken from sources without any interpretation/evaluation

- Student's position: 1-2 on a 4 point scale

Specific position is stated (no one change their own mind) without making any connections with the evidences of their research.

For example

Student #35:

The most compelling evidence was that euthanasia should be legalized because of person's right to self-govern. This is the most compelling because I agree with it.

Reflection on the Project Design

1. What are the different research methods in the disciplines?
2. What evidence do you find most compelling? What is least compelling, why?
3. Where do you come down on the Pro/Con position? Does the research inform your position.

What are the different research methods in the disciplines

- Students answer:
- "the research method used were qualitative and quantitative."
- "the research method used for this study was experimental."
- "the research method used was opinion based research."

- "one research method is ethics."
- "Another research method look at the topic through different culture view"
- "Another research method was people's attitude toward the topic."

Start from chapter 2, this course teaches about research method, but do students understand what “research method” refer to here?

Where do you come down on the pro/con position? Does the research inform your position?

Students' answer:

History is looking for what happened, sociology is looking for how it happened, and Psychology is looking for why it happened...These findings did not change my view on the topic...they weren't meant in a way that would say whether or not capital punishment is a good or bad thing so they did not influence me

The Conclusion

Based on this assessment, faculty agreed that the assignment (the project) itself needs to be redesigned to improve students' critical thinking skills.