

## **Assessing One-Shot Instruction: Using Post-Assignment Evaluations to Build Better Assignments**

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### **Why evaluate instruction?**

- Evaluate my teaching effectiveness.
  - Help me improve the library instruction.
- Give students an opportunity to reflect on their completion of the assignment.
  - Provide evidence of difficulties with the assignment to bring to the faculty.

### **Administration of the evaluation**

- When professors scheduled their classes to come to the library, I asked if they were willing to administer it in their classes.
- A few days before their students' bibliographies were due I sent the paper evaluations to each professor through campus mail along with an e-mail reminder.
- After the bibliographies were due the professors administered the evaluations in their classes and returned them to me.
- I chose to use paper evaluations because students could complete them in class. This guaranteed a near 100% response rate.

### **Results: Spring 2006–Fall 2007**

- Improved collaboration with faculty, including meetings with new professors, led to clarification of the assignment for both parties.
- My recommendations included changes to the assignment and suggestions for faculty about how to approach it in class.
  - The most useful comments from students were in response to questions 4 and 5.
- Some professors now give their students class time to work on the assignment in the library with me “on hand.”
- I have a better understanding of what I need to cover in my lecture-demonstration, including differences between the Fall and Spring semesters.

### **Benefits of post-assignment evaluations**

- Students can reflect on the assignment and library instruction in relation to it.
- Student responses inform the librarian's teaching.
- Faculty have evidence of students' difficulties that are appropriate for them, rather than the librarian, to address.
- Faculty can revise assignments in order to improve their students' understanding of the research process.

**Sample: ENGL 185 Annotated Bibliography Required Sources**

1. an article in a scholarly journal (peer reviewed)
2. a single-authored book
3. an anthology—a collection of essays by different authors. In this case your source can be either the book as a whole or one essay in the collection
4. a text (book, article, pamphlet, etc.) written by a corporation or organization
5. an article in a daily newspaper
6. an article in a popular magazine or journal
7. an editorial or letter to the editor in a daily newspaper or popular magazine or journal
8. a text in an alternative media form—for example, a film, video, or CD
9. a book review
10. an article or essay that does not exist in print form—e.g., from an online journal, magazine, or newspaper
11. a website produced by an organization trying to inform or persuade readers
12. a government-run site
13. a blog, discussion board, listserv, chat group, or other online discussion

Randolph-Macon College  
McGraw-Page Library  
ENGL 185 Post-Assignment Evaluation of Library Instruction Class  
Fall 2007

**Professor's Name:**

**Date of Library Instruction:**

**Today's Date:**

**1. Please rate the extent to which the presentation of the following topics helped you complete your annotated bibliography assignment. Select DK if you don't know.**

	1 not at all helpful	2 not very helpful	3 moderately helpful	4 very helpful	5 extremely helpful	
a. using the library's website	1	2	3	4	5	DK
b. using reference sources	1	2	3	4	5	DK
c. searching MaconCat	1	2	3	4	5	DK
d. searching a library database for an article	1	2	3	4	5	DK
e. distinguishing scholarly and popular sources	1	2	3	4	5	DK
f. evaluating internet sources	1	2	3	4	5	DK
g. citing sources	1	2	3	4	5	DK

**2. If other information was helpful, please list it below.**

**3. What was particularly helpful about the library instruction class?**

	1 not at all helpful	2 not very helpful	3 moderately helpful	4 very helpful	5 extremely helpful	
a. learning how to develop a good search	1	2	3	4	5	DK
b. learning how to locate an article in the library	1	2	3	4	5	DK
c. learning how to locate a book in the library	1	2	3	4	5	DK
d. learning where to look for more help online	1	2	3	4	5	DK
e. meeting a librarian	1	2	3	4	5	DK
f. working on the assignment	1	2	3	4	5	DK

**4. What would make the library instruction class more helpful in completing the annotated bibliography assignment?**

**5. What, if anything, was difficult about completing the annotated bibliography assignment?**

**6. To what extent did the library's ENGL 185 webpage help you with the annotated bibliography assignment?**

1	2	3	4	5
not at all helpful	not very helpful	moderately helpful	very helpful	extremely helpful

**7. Now that you have completed the annotated bibliography assignment, how would you rate the library instruction class overall?**

1	2	3	4	5
poor	below average	average	very good	excellent

**8. To what extent did the library instruction class help you with research in other classes? Select N/A if you did not have to do research in other classes.**

1	2	3	4	5	N/A
not at all helpful	not very helpful	moderately helpful	very helpful	extremely helpful	

**9. Have you had other library instruction classes?**

yes                  no

**10. Please make any additional comments in the space below.**