

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.