

# Cal Poly Information Literacy Rubric

Information literacy encompasses knowledge that allows one to understand how information is produced and valued, to engage with a variety of information domains, to understand the potential and limitations of sources within those domains as well as one's personal bias toward those sources. It requires the ability to utilize a critical stance and reflective approach for defining, articulating, and refining a need for information; locating trustworthy information using a variety and diversity of sources; and critically evaluating credibility and appropriateness of the information one finds in order to distinguish fact from opinion and data from interpretation. The information literate student is able to use and synthesize information to solve complex problems and create new knowledge in a way that is ethically, legally, and socially sound.

– Working Definition from the Cal Poly Information Literacy Learning Community

Dimension	Limited Proficiency – 1	Emerging Proficiency – 2	Proficient – 3	Highly Proficient - 4
<b>Establishing Information Need</b> <i>Establishes a specific need for information based on a clearly defined and articulated topic, problem, research question.</i>	The topic, problem, or research question is too vague, too narrow, or too broad (i.e. the need for information is not defined or articulated).	The topic, problem, or research question is somewhat defined and/or only somewhat articulated.	The topic, problem, or research question is defined and clearly articulated.	The topic, problem, or research question is well defined and articulated with a high level of sophistication.
<b>Identifying &amp; Selecting Sources</b> <i>Identifies and draws from an extensive and varied set of sources (e.g., websites, journal articles, books, reports, data sets) appropriate to the topic, problem, or research question; assignment guidelines; or research practices within a discipline.</i>	Information draws from a limited number or single type of source; sources are not appropriate given the research purpose, audience, and context.	Information draws from a somewhat sufficient number and variety of sources; sources are only somewhat appropriate given the research purpose, audience, and context.	Information draws from a sufficient number and variety of sources; sources are appropriate given the research purpose, audience, and context.	Information draws from an extensive and varied set of sources; sources are exceedingly appropriate given the research purpose, audience, and context.
<b>Evaluating &amp; Incorporating Source Information</b> <i>Demonstrates the ability to incorporate information from sources based on an evaluation of the sources' quality and relevance to the discipline; critically evaluates source information using appropriate criteria considering authority, credibility, reliability, currency, and purpose.</i>	Incorporates information from inappropriate, non-credible, and/or low quality sources including those not appropriate and relevant to the discipline, which represents an inadequate level of source evaluation.	Incorporates information from a minimal number of appropriate, credible, and/or quality sources including those somewhat appropriate and relevant to the discipline, which represents a somewhat adequate level of source evaluation.	Incorporates information from an adequate number of suitable, credible, and quality sources that are appropriate and relevant to the discipline, which represents an adequate level of source evaluation.	Incorporates information only from appropriate, credible, and high quality sources that are appropriate to the discipline, which represents a sophisticated level of source evaluation.
<b>Synthesizing Source Information</b> <i>Synthesizes information from multiple sources, making explicit connections among them and effectively integrating source information to support ideas related to the topic, problem, or research question.</i>	Incorporates source information one by one and does not establish any connections among them; does not integrate source information in a way that clearly and sufficiently supports ideas related to the topic, problem, or research question.	Inconsistently incorporates information from multiple sources and attempts to establish connections among them; integrates source information in a way that somewhat clearly and sufficiently supports ideas related to the topic, problem, or research question.	Consistently incorporates information from multiple sources and adequately establishes the general connections among them; integrates source information in a way that clearly and sufficiently supports ideas related to the topic, problem, or research question.	Consistently and eloquently incorporates information from multiple sources and establishes the complex connections among them; integrates sources information in a way that strongly supports ideas related to the topic, problem, or research question.
<b>Attributing Source Information</b> <i>Represents and attributes sources responsibly and accurately within the text; provides complete citations within the text and in the References list; employs the citation style required by the assignment or appropriate to the discipline.</i>	Does not attribute information to sources within the text; is neither complete nor consistent when citing sources within the text and in the References list; does not follow the citation style required by the assignment or follows a style inappropriate to the discipline.	Occasionally attributes information to sources within the text; is incomplete and /or inconsistent when citing sources within the text or in the References list; somewhat follows the citation style required by the assignment or follows a style that may not be appropriate to the discipline.	Consistently attributes information to sources within the text; is mostly complete and consistent when citing sources within the text and in the References list; mostly follows the citation style required by the assignment or most likely appropriate to the discipline.	Consistently and eloquently attributes information to sources within the text; is always complete and consistent when citing sources within the text and in the References list; strictly follows the citation style required by the assignment or most appropriate to the discipline.