Information Literacy & Student Engagement Data & Brainstorming Session

Nov. 28, 2007

**Today's Session** 

Brief presentation of selected info & data
Discussion and brainstorming of responses
Presentation of grant R.F.P. & tips

Today's Objectives:

Raise awareness of HWC assessment;

 Provoke discussion about challenged assumptions and informed practice;

Discuss and develop responses.

Information Literacy Definition & Data

SAILS Assessment

Information Literacy is the competent "use of information resources," which is part of the Gen Ed Goal related to effective communication.

Source: HWC 2005-2007 Catalog (page 128)

HWC defines Information Literacy as the set of skills that "enables individuals to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and effectively use the needed information."

HWC students can demonstrate Information Literacy by defining research topics and information needed.

HWC students can demonstrate Information Literacy by developing and implementing effective searches.

HWC students can demonstrate Information Literacy by locating and retrieving information.

HWC students can demonstrate Information Literacy by evaluating information and search strategies.

HWC students can demonstrate Information Literacy by organizing and synthesizing information.

HWC students scored about the same as students from 4-year colleges who took the Information Literacy Assessment in 2004.

HWC students beat the national average of 4-year students at selecting search terms.

(HWC: .51; compared to a national average of .45)

HWC students scored better than the national average of 4-year students at documenting sources.

(HWC: .49; compared to a national average of .41)

HWC students beat the national average of 4-year students in knowledge about scholarly communication and academic discipline structure.

(HWC: .56; compared to national average: .54)

HWC students scored about the same as students from 4-year colleges at determining the nature and extent of information needed.

HWC students scored about the same as students from 4-year colleges at accessing needed information effectively and efficiently.

HWC students scored about the same as students from 4-year colleges at evaluating information and its sources critically and incorporating selected information into her/his knowledge base and value system.

In regard to Information Literacy, HWC students are least consistent in their ability to evaluate information and sources and incorporate new information into their knowledge base.

In regard to Information Literacy, HWC students are most consistent in their ability to access information effectively and efficiently.

#### Student Engagement Data



Research shows that the more actively engaged students are, the more likely they are to learn, to persist in their studies, & to attain their academic goals.

Source: CCSSE ("Act on fact" supporting materials for SP2005 Assessment)

HWC students are more likely to communicate by email with their instructors than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are more likely to have serious conversations with a student of a different race or ethnicity than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are more likely to be asked to make judgments about the value or soundness of information, arguments, or methods than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are more likely to be asked to use theories or concepts in new situations or deal with practical problems than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are more likely to read unassigned books for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are more likely to feel that their experiences in college have helped them develop their understanding of themselves than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are more likely to say that their college encourages contact among students from different backgrounds than students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are about as likely to say their college helped them learn to write clearly and effectively as students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students are about as likely to say they had to work harder than expected to meet their instructor's expectations as students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students write about as many papers as students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

HWC students rank their relationships with instructors about the same as students at 2-year schools across Illinois and the nation.

(5.6 out of 7; 7=Highest rating)

65% of HWC faculty report that students ask questions or contribute to discussions very often.

33% of HWC students report that students ask questions or contribute to discussions very often.

Source: CCSSE (SP2005 Student Engagement Assessment) & CCFSSE (SP 2005 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement)

55% of HWC students report that they never skip class.

1% of HWC faculty report that students never skip class.

Source: CCSSE (SP2005 Student Engagement Assessment) & CCFSSE (SP 2005 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement)

## Diversity and Humanities Appreciation Data & Brainstorming Session

Nov. 29, 2007

**Today's Session** 

Brief presentation of selected info & data
Discussion and brainstorming of responses
Presentation of grant R.F.P. & tips

Whaddya Know? Diversity & Humanities Appreciation Today's Objectives:

Raise awareness of HWC assessment;

Provoke discussion about challenged assumptions and informed practice;

Discuss and develop responses.

Diversity Climate & Appreciation Data

One of HWC's Gen Ed Goals is that students learn: "To understand and respect human diversity in regard to race, ethnicity, gender, and other issues pertinent to improving human relations."

Source: HWC 2005-2007 Catalog (page 128)

HWC Faculty believe, "...Experiences of diversity include race, ethnicity, gender, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, physical attributes and disabilities, age, health, language, education, political beliefs and other differences in cultural expression and tradition."

HWC Faculty have committed to:
~Facilitate the development of a broad perspective of diversity; &
~Foster responsible citizenship as members of a diverse world.

HWC Faculty have committed to:
~Encourage the understanding of commonality and differences; &
~Provide direct and indirect experiences with various cultures.

HWC students can demonstrate their knowledge and appreciation of diversity when they:
"Analyze and discuss contemporary multicultural, global, and international

questions in a diverse setting."

HWC students can demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of diversity when they: "Identify and respect that there are various ways of thinking, communicating and interacting," when they work in diverse groups.

HWC students can demonstrate their knowledge and appreciation of diversity when they: "Evaluate diverse moral and intellectual perspectives, principles, systems and structures."

HWC students can demonstrate their knowledge and appreciation of diversity when they: "Articulate the value of cross-cultural campus and community activities and their impact on the lives of others."

93% of HWC students agree with the statement: "There are two sides to every issue, and I try to look at both of them."

28% of HWC students agree with the statement: "I sometimes find it difficult to see the 'other person's' point of view."

81% of HWC students agree that speaking up against social injustice is essential or important.

77% of HWC students agree that working to end poverty is essential or important.

60% of HWC students agree with the statement: "Enhancing a student's ability to live in a multicultural society is a part of this college's mission."

21% of HWC students disagree with the statement: "I think that what generally happens to people in my racial and/or ethnic group will affect what happens in my life."

#### 88% of HWC students agree with the statement: "Women should be taken as seriously as men in the classroom."

18% of HWC students agree with the statement: "Speaking languages other than English should <u>not</u> be encouraged in the United States."

70% of HWC students report having dined or shared a meal with students of a different race and/or ethnicity;

9% report never having done so.

54% of HWC students agree that HWC "has done a good job providing programs and activities that promote an understanding of diversity."

#### 59% of HWC students agree that HWC "promotes respect for diversity."

36% of HWC students feel they are expected to represent their race, ethnicity, gender, age, or disability group in class discussions;

33% say they do <u>not</u> feel that way in class.

49% of HWC students identify their "ability to work cooperatively with diverse people as a major strength;

#### 1% identify it as a major weakness.

78% of HWC students claim to be very or somewhat strong in their "ability to see the world from someone else's perspective;"

3% claim to be very or somewhat weak in that regard.

26% of HWC students rate themselves as "average" in academic ability;

2% identify themselves as very or somewhat weak in that regard.

39% of HWC students rate their "tolerance of others with different beliefs" as a major strength;

4% identify themselves as very or somewhat weak in that regard.

30% of HWC students say they've often or sometimes encountered discrimination at HWC based on their race and/or ethnicity;

41% say they've never encountered such discrimination at HWC.

#### **Humanities Appreciation Data**

One of HWC's Gen Ed Goals is that students learn: "To understand and appreciate the arts, literature, history, and philosophical systems of major world cultures."

Source: HWC 2005-2007 Catalog (page 128)

HWC defines the Humanities and the Arts as "the study of the evolution and development of ideas, beliefs, and philosophies in the context of various forms of cultural expression to broaden the human experience."

HWC students demonstrate their understanding and appreciation of the arts through their use of analysis, evaluation, interpretation, artistic applications, and communication skills.

HWC students demonstrate their arts analysis skills by "identifying historical periods, major movements and theories related to the evolution of a particular discipline."

HWC students demonstrate their arts evaluation skills by "establishing criteria to assess the major characteristics, and to draw inferences from a work."

HWC students demonstrate their arts application skills by "using techniques relative to the discipline to construct a physical manifestation as a vehicle for communication."

HWC students demonstrate their arts interpretation skills by "responding through the 'self' to the synthesis and integration of analyzed and evaluated information."

HWC students demonstrate their arts communication skills by "articulating ideas, emotions, or interpretations through dialogue, reading, writing, and visual imagery."

Source: HWC Progress Report (November 2006)

#### 83.6% of HWC students agree that studying the arts and humanities has given them new ways to think about their lives.

82.6% of HWC students agree that studying the arts and humanities has given them important skills to use in other classes.

#### 86.2% of HWC students agree that studying the arts and humanities has helped them be more expressive, creative, and imaginative.

79.2% of HWC students agree that studying the arts and humanities has helped broaden their taste (in music, literature and visual art).

66.6% of HWC students say they read different types of books now than they did before coming to HWC.

69% of HWC students say they enjoy different types of visual art now than they did before coming to HWC.

75.3% of HWC students say they are more likely to think about the arts and race or ethnicity now than they were before coming to HWC.

#### 70.2% of HWC students say they are more likely to discuss life's big questions now than they were before coming to HWC.

66.1% of HWC students say they are more likely to search for meaning in music/images/books now than they were before coming to HWC.

73.1% of HWC students say they are more likely to feel confident about interpreting creative works of art now than they were before coming to HWC.

73.1% of HWC students say they are more likely to find value in creative works (even if they don't enjoy them) now than they were before coming to HWC.

# 17.1% of HWC students have <u>never</u> visited a museum.

45.5% of HWC students have attended a play since coming to HWC while

11.4% of HWC students have never attended one.

On the exam portion of the assessment: ~46.7% chose to write about music; ~29% chose to write about visual art; ~24.3% chose to write about poetry.

#### **Critical Thinking Resources**

#### Assessment Week November 26-29, 2007

#### **A Definition**

Critical thinking is that mode of thinking - about any subject, content, or problem - in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully taking charge of the structures inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them.

#### The Result

#### A well cultivated critical thinker:

- raises vital questions and problems, formulating them clearly and precisely;
- gathers and assesses relevant information, using abstract ideas to interpret it effectively comes to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions, testing them against relevant criteria and standards;
- thinks openmindedly within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing, as need be, their assumptions, implications, and practical consequences; and
- communicates effectively with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems.

Critical thinking is, in short, self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking. It presupposes assent to rigorous standards of excellence and mindful command of their use. It entails effective communication and problem solving abilities and a commitment to overcome our native egocentrism and sociocentrism.

Foundation for Critical Thinking http://www.criticalthinking.org/

Critical Thinking: What it is and why it counts 2007 update

Peter Faccione

http://www.insightassessment.com/pdf\_files/what&why2007.pdf

#### TABLE 1 CONSENSUS STATEMENT REGARDING CRITICAL THINKING AND THE IDEAL CRITICAL THINKER

"We understand critical thinking to be purposeful, self-regulatory judgment that results in interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and inference, as well as explanation of the evidential, conceptual, methodological, criteriological, or contextual considerations upon which that judgment is based. CT is essential as a tool of inquiry. As such, CT is a liberating force in education and a powerful resource in one's personal and civic life. While not synonymous with good thinking, CT is a pervasive and self-rectifying human phenomenon. The ideal critical thinker is habitually inquisitive, well-informed, trustful of reason, open-minded, flexible, fairminded in evaluation, honest in facing personal biases, prudent in making judgments, willing to reconsider, clear about issues, orderly in complex matters, diligent in seeking relevant information, reasonable in the selection of criteria, focused in inquiry, and persistent in seeking results which are as precise as the subject and the circumstances of inquiry permit. Thus, educating good critical thinkers means working toward this ideal. It combines developing CT skills with nurturing those dispositions which consistently yield useful insights and which are the basis of a rational and democratic society.

"The Delphi Report"

Critical Thinking: A statement of expert consensus for the purposes of educational assessment and instruction

http://www.insightassessment.com/pdf\_files/DEXadobe.PDF

An annotated bibliography of critical thinking tests

http://www.criticalthinking.net/TestList.html

Info trak college edition

Thomson learning

http://infotrac.thomsonlearning.com/infowrite/critical.html

Critical Thinking: An Introduction

Alec Fisher

Cambridge University Press

http://assets.cambridge.org/052100/9847/sample/0521009847ws.pdf

General Education Critical Thinking Rubric

Northeastern Illinois University

http://www.neiu.edu/~neassess/pdf/CriThinkRoger-long.pdf

Teaching Critical Thinking: Some lessons from cognitive science

Tim Van Gelder

College Teaching vol. 45/no. 1

http://www.philosophy.unimelb.edu.au/reason/papers/Teaching CT Lessons.pdf

#### What is higher order thinking?

"Every day thinking, like ordinary walking, is a natural performance we all pick up. But good thinking, like running the 100-yard dash, is a technical performance... Sprinters have to be taught how to run the 100-yard dash; good thinking is the result of good teaching, which includes much practice."

David Perkins, Howard University

http://www.ves.wpsb.org/focus/higherorderthinking.html

California Critical Thinking Skills Test

The scales scores

http://www.insightassessment.com/test-cctst2k.html#STScales