Information Literacy Assignment Example

200 Level Biology Course

What the student sees:

“Write a research paper on a physiological system (skeletal, endocrine, respiratory, etc.); give a brief discussion of its components and functions, and then explain how it is affected by or relates to one of the following: aging, historical and modern therapies, communicable diseases, public understanding or political policy issues, or genetics. The paper must be at least five pages, typed, double-spaced, and include a bibliography in APA style. Sources must minimally include one book, one reference book, one scholarly periodical, and one website or online journal. You may have more than one of each type or resource, but you must have at least one of each type. Any other combination must be pre-approved by instructor. Attach to your paper a typed, approximately 2-3 page detailed “diary” of the research process you followed to complete your paper.

You will be evaluated on the following:
1) grasp of physiology
2) relevance & thoroughness of discussion of chosen related topic
3) writing form & clarity
4) effective choice of resources
5) detail and comprehensiveness of “diary” evidencing awareness of research process.

Factors you might include are:

Search language you used – did it change throughout the search process?
How you narrowed your search.
Databases you consulted. Which were most valuable and why?
What factors you considered in developing your topic (key people, dates, issues, etc.)
What resources helped or hindered your process.
Your frustrations and/or “aha” moments.
Your best hint pertaining to the library or the research process.
What you learned about yourself as a researcher.
What you learned about the research process.
How you evaluated the sources you used and why you used them; what criteria did you develop for that evaluation? (Refer to the list developed in class for help on this one.)
Learning Activity:

- Philosophy of library/library faculty
- Focus on language development and search strategy - take a student topic as example. Discuss time, key aspects, key people, etc.
- Concepts: include logical operators, database structure
- Develop evaluative criteria for search tools (online catalog, periodical indexes, web, etc.)
- Develop evaluative criteria for individual sources
- Discuss the value of multiple perspectives; differences in source types such as journals vs. magazines.

Assessment:

Diary of the research process

How will we know that IC Components have been grasped by the Students?

- Multiple criteria will have been discussed
- Student will present logical arguments for sources used and strategies selected
- Student will discuss the search strategy and demonstrate refinements that led to more focus on the topic and progression in their thinking about the topic
- Student will discuss helpful/non helpful sources and have cited criteria for that decision. Summary includes both description and analysis
- Student will discuss some aspect of their individual learning about the research process
- Student will discuss application of standard criteria used for evaluation of sources for at least 2 of their sources
- Bibliography will included more than 5 sources from at least 3 different journals.