

NJIT Assessment Scales: Information Literacy

Reader's Name: _____	Date: _____
Student's Name: _____	Course: _____

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education defines information literacy as “an intellectual framework for identifying, finding, understanding, evaluating and using information. It includes determining the nature and extent of needed information; accessing information effectively and efficiently; evaluating critically information and its sources; incorporating selected information in the learner’s knowledge base and value system; using information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose; understanding the economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information and information technology; and observing laws, regulations, and institutional policies related to the access and use of information.” It is the presence and extent of such literacy that we are assessing as it exists within undergraduate courses offered by the Department of Humanities at NJIT.

1. **Citation**: **This portfolio includes sources that are documented so that the original source can easily be found.** Discussion: All information needed to identify a source must be present. The audience-centered ability of students to present a source that may be *retrieved without undue burden* is more important than stylistic adherence to a particular citation system.

The contents of the portfolio demonstrate that the student has cited sources so that the original source can be easily found.

Very Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Very Strongly Disagree
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2. **Evidence of Independent Research**: **This portfolio includes evidence of research independent of sources indicated within the course syllabus.** Discussion: While it is important that students reference information from textbooks, readers, and bibliographies provided by the instructor, researched work demands that students have sought, evaluated, and used information *beyond the syllabus*. An authentically researched assignment demonstrates that the student has sought ideas from a variety of sources to become truly informed about the topic at hand.

The contents of the portfolio demonstrate that the student has performed independent research.

Very Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Very Strongly Disagree
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3. **Appropriateness**: **The sources used in this portfolio are appropriate to the topic the student addressed.** Discussion: Academic integrity demands that authoritative sources must be used in researched work. Research that is appropriate to the topic at hand will be sensitive to issues of *validity, timeliness, and sufficiency*. An authentically researched assignment will demonstrate a student’s ability to identify valid sources that have been reliably reviewed by those recognized as knowledgeable about the topic at hand, to select sources that offer time-appropriate views on that topic, and to ensure that the sources used are adequate to support the demands of the topic.

The contents of the portfolio demonstrate that the student has used appropriate sources.

Very Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Very Strongly Disagree
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4. **Integration**: **The sources cited in this portfolio have informed the course work.** Discussion: Authentically researched work will demonstrate that the student has incorporated information in order to deepen critical thought. Authentic integration will demonstrate that the student has used sources to *interpret, deepen, and reflect* on the topic at hand.

The contents of the portfolio demonstrate that the student has integrated sources.

Very Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Very Strongly Disagree
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5. Overall Information Literacy Portfolio Score:

The contents of the portfolio demonstrate that the student has employed an information literacy framework.

Very Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Very Strongly Disagree
The materials in the portfolio demonstrate <i>superior</i> information literacy skills.	The materials in the portfolio demonstrate <i>very good</i> information literacy skills.	The materials in the portfolio demonstrate and an <i>acceptable</i> level of information literacy skills.	The materials in the portfolio demonstrate <i>below average</i> information literacy skills.	The materials in the portfolio demonstrate information literacy skills at a <i>level near failure</i> .	The materials in the portfolio demonstrate information literacy skills at a level of <i>failure</i> .