

Core Value #4

Information literacy is essential to the practice of writing.

Summary



Academic writing is informed writing, which means:

1. contextualizing our ideas in pre-existing conversations (other sources).
2. providing evidence beyond our personal experiences or opinions.

So you need skills to locate/evaluate source info to find which info to use in your paper.

Real World Example



Movie Critics provide an educated and informed response about a movie in order to present the general audience with a digestible understanding of “should I see it?” It is one thing to say “this movie is scary”, it is another to understand **why** it is scary. A reviewer will inform themselves about musical undertones, usage of lighting, the expressions of actors’ faces, etc. and how they combine to induce a feeling of terror so that their writing sounds informed and convincing in its critique.

Further Explanation



Being able to assess source quality and differentiate between a **Popular** or **Scholarly** source and an average website (and what makes one better than the other rhetorically) is a key idea with CV4.

This helps students to not only make sure that they understand the research process but it also helps them establish or retain their own credibility.

- If you’re using credible information from credible sources in your paper, it adds to your own credibility and trustworthiness.
- But if you’re not using quality information from your sources, or just using any old website info from any old person regardless of their credibility, it’s going to hurt YOUR credibility and make the reader less likely to trust that you know what you’re talking about.

Difference Between CV2 & CV4



Core Value 2 is the reader’s perspective. It emphasizes researching and analyzing a text as a way to become informed enough about it to be able to join the conversation about it. CV2 incorporates methods used in CV4 in order to properly inform oneself of what they are reading.

Core value 4 is the writer’s perspective. The writer evaluates their own thoughts by using strategies from CV2 (researching and analysis). Additionally, they are researching and informing themselves on the content they are writing about in order to present their work confidently. This allows the writer to understand what they are writing about, which will then help the reader to understand what they are reading as well.

Some Ways to Demonstrate Your Understanding

- Identify a source’s credibility and how it adds credibility to what you are saying.
- Show that you sought out different viewpoints and perspectives to avoid confirmation bias.
- Demonstrate that you understand how to differentiate between a popular or scholarly source and an average website.

Self Reflective Questions

- What types of sources have you used for this paper?
- Has the type of source (article, video, etc.) affected or shaped the way you used them?
- How did your writing change once you added quotes, summary, and analysis from the sources?
- How does your writing become more credible when you use reliable sources?