General Education
Humanities Artifacts
Assessment Committee
Report
Summer 2011

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The artifact assessment committee read and evaluated one hundred humanities artifacts from the academic year 2010-2011. The following pages contain the committee’s findings and recommendations.
Humanities Artifacts Assessment 2010-2011

Humanities: (includes American Cinema, American Music, Art Appreciation, Humanities I & II, Intro to Theater, Music Appreciation, World Music, Intro to Lit., World Lit., Children’s Lit., History I & II, Western Civ.)

Outcome: Students will demonstrate understanding of the human condition through art, history, literature, music, theatre or philosophy.

0. Artifact is not scoreable.
1. Students will identify major cultural influences on the human condition.
2. Students will identify and demonstrate understanding of the effects of cultural influences on individuals and society.
3. Students will identify, demonstrate an understanding of, analyze and synthesize the effects of cultural influences on the human condition with regard to time and place.

Outcomes Standards for Humanities: 85% of the student artifacts will achieve outcome rubric 3 or 4.

Finding of Assessment Committee:

Number of artifacts receiving a 0 rating -- 3
Number of artifacts receiving a 1 rating – 34
Number of artifacts receiving a 2 rating – 42
Number of artifacts receiving a 3 rating – 21

Result: 21% of the student artifacts were rated 3. Therefore, the 85% goal set by the rubric was not met.
Observations

1. Artifacts 48 and 99 were identical. Either two students handed in the same essay or the artifact was duplicated.

2. Artifacts that are copies of PowerPoint presentations do not provide synthesis or analysis.

3. Artifacts derived from one essay exam question generally do not allow for adequate synthesis and analysis.

4. Even though there are 22 courses listed under General Education Humanities classes, only six courses were represented by artifacts. A better cross-section of classes would be more representational. Either more instructor participation is needed or artifacts need to be shuffled better in the selection process.

5. More artifacts were scoreable than in the past.

6. The rubric given to the committee is wrong. The Outcome Standards for Humanities states that “85% of the students will achieve outcome rubric 3 or 4 on each outcome.” However, the rubric scale only has 0-3. When this discrepancy was pointed out, the assessment coordinator told the committee that a change could only be made through the Assessment Committee.