

Assessing the Core Curriculum

Written Communication Outcome: develop the capacity to express oneself and interact with diverse others through writing.

Assignment: Reflective Essay. Students are required to critically analyze a text from [various genres, perspectives, and periods], recognizing the diversity of values and traditions represented in [U.S. literature]. In executing the assignment, students demonstrate control of syntax and appropriate evidence and referencing to support ideas.

	Capstone	Milestone 3	Milestone 2	Basic
Literary Skills	Demonstrates understanding of a wide range of literary devices and conventions. Engages skillfully with texts of various genres, perspectives, and periods.	Recognizes and engages with a wide range of literary devices and conventions. Attempts to read creatively texts of various genres, perspectives, and periods.	Demonstrates fair comprehension of literary devices and conventions. Displays adequate skills in interpreting genres, perspectives, and periods.	Has a minimum level of familiarity with literary devices and conventions. Does not recognize the way that genres, perspectives, and periods reflect complexity in texts and language.
Diversity	Recognizes the wide diversity of values and traditions represented in U.S. literature. Responds to the challenges and intellectual opportunities that arise from an engagement with under-represented texts.	Willingly participates in exploring the diversity of values and traditions represented in U. S. literature. Appreciates the relationships between their cultures and others, including under-represented voices.	Demonstrates a developing interest in studying other values and traditions represented in U. S. literature. Shows limited recognition of the intellectual opportunities that arise from under-represented voices.	Shows minimal interest in other values and traditions represented in U. S. literature. Uncomfortable engaging with under-represented voices.
Written Literary Analysis	Reads thoughtfully and develops strong critical analysis through essays and other forms of composition. Expresses ideas and formulates arguments that deepen understanding of literature.	Demonstrates an understanding of reading for complexity and critical analysis through essays and other forms of composition. Sustains ideas and arguments.	Begins to read beyond surface meanings and to initiate critical analysis through essays and other forms of composition. Shows some facility with argumentation but does not sustain ideas completely.	Interprets simplistically and partially, without critical analysis through essays and other forms of composition. Does not develop literary analysis.
Mechanics of Writing	Controls syntax to write with clarity and to communicate effectively with the reader, using detailed textual evidence to support ideas. Cites sources appropriately and writes with minimal errors.	Conveys meaning to the reader using good syntax and organization. Consistent use of relevant sources with few errors.	Makes use of revision to correct syntax and to organize ideas. Begins to reduce technical errors and to cite appropriately.	Lacks control over syntax and ideas which impede communication with the reader. Frequently makes technical errors and has difficulty with citations.