2015 FYC News

DeWitt Wallace Library

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The Library is excited to partner with you to create a great first year course experience for incoming Macalester students. We continue to improve the session format to keep it lively and informative while covering the important information that your students need to know. Your liaison librarian will be in touch with you over the summer to schedule your session.

**TOPICS COVERED IN THE FYC LIBRARY SESSION**

The FYC Library Session consists of a pre-class activity and an in-class discussion and activity. The session is led by your department's liaison librarian with assistance from your AIA.

**ONLINE PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY**

The pre-session online activity asks students to find a book and two articles on a pre-selected topic often related to the MacReads selection or a topic currently being discussed in the course. Students then answer a few questions about the process they followed to find these items. Tutorials on how to use Worldcat and Academic Search Premier are included in the activity.

Goals for the first year information fluency library session include:

- **Introducing students to academic scholarship**
  Students will understand that scholarly conversations take place in a variety of formats and learn strategies to locate these conversations.

- **Introducing students to critical evaluation and analysis of scholarly information**
  Students will learn how to identify and navigate interdisciplinary and disciplinary library research tools to access appropriate scholarly, peer-reviewed...
DURING THE CLASS SESSION
In the class session, we facilitate a brief discussion around the pre-session activity. Then we dive into topics such as evaluating sources, efficient searching techniques, and using references and citation trails. Students will complete an activity to practice these techniques. This reinforces the concept of a “scholarly conversation” and teaches students different methods to access that conversation.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIBRARY SESSION

Tip #1 - Schedule your session in the first half of the semester
The session is meant to give your students a foundation that they can use not only in your first year course, but in all their classes and research projects. It is helpful to your students to receive this information before research/writing projects are assigned in any of their classes.

Tip #2 - Combine the FYC Library Session with an assignment or current topic being discussed in class
Our session works best if the information we cover is immediately used by the students for a class assignment or discussion.

Tip #3 - Be there!
The most productive FYC Library Sessions are those with the faculty member present and engaged in the discussion.

Tip #4 - Consider a second session
If you are asking students to conduct library research, we strongly recommend reinforcing and building on the introductory session by having a second session later in the semester. In a second session, we can cover discipline-specific resources targeted to the assignment, along with hands-on time for students to work on their own topics.

Tip #5 - Require a consultation with a librarian
If scheduling a second session is not possible, consider asking your students to schedule a one-on-one with your liaison librarian. We love helping students with their research topics!

By introducing students to these basic principles, the FYC Library Session will be creating a foundation on which the students can build their information fluency skills in future courses, research seminars, and capstone experiences.
MacREADS SUMMER ENGAGEMENT

Join us on Moodle for discussion and activities with first year students as they read Sarah Carr's *Hope Against Hope: three schools, one city, and the struggle to educate America's Children*. Selected as this year's MacReads book as a tie-in with the 2015 International Roundtable theme of disparities in education, we hope community members will join first year students in reading the book and becoming familiar with some of the issues of education in the United States.

Faculty, staff and students are busy creating videos, forums, and resource links in order to build a virtual community for MacReads. Watch for announcements on the launch of the Moodle course in late June!