

## **Assessing Written Communications and Quantitative Reasoning Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. Why do I have to assess students with the Value rubrics?**

The College must collectively assess all of its institutional learning goals (outcomes) so that it can determine how well students are meeting them. Assessment of these expected outcomes is also a requirement for the College's accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). *Outstanding Communication Skills in Diverse Media* and *Skills in Quantitative Reasoning, Information Literacy and Research* are two of College's seven goals and the Value rubrics are well aligned them. Using the Value rubric to assess these goals will allow for a common assessment across a large number of course sections.

### **2. I do not use Blackboard in my course; do I have to use it for this project?**

For this project to be successful, students must submit the assignment that will be the focus of the assessment in Blackboard. Instructors also must enter their rubric scores in Blackboard. This will allow the College to aggregate the scores across hundreds of course sections taking part in this project.

### **3. I already built my assignment using Turnitin and students are submitting assignments using this tool. Do I have do something different?**

You may continue to use Turnitin as a tool to create assignments and to provide students with feedback. This is exactly what Turnitin is designed to do. However, Turnitin does not give us the ability to aggregate the scores on the Value rubric across large numbers of sections.

### **4. I already use a rubric in my course to grade student's papers. Do I also need to use the Value rubric?**

You may continue to use your existing rubrics and other scoring tools to provide students with grades on any given assignment. We also are asking you to "score" one of your course's major writing assignments using the AAC&U's Written Communication Value rubric. This rubric will be used by instructors in all LEH sections to assess how well students are writing across the College.

### **5. Do I have to show the rubric to my students?**

We recommend that you show the rubric to your students, but you do not have to. Showing the rubric to students makes your evaluation criteria transparent and helps students understand what your expectations are.

### **6. May I change the rubric?**

No. Please do not alter the rubric. We realize that the rubric is not perfect for every situation, but altering it will prevent us from being able to aggregate the scores consistently.

**7. What scores should I expect students to receive?**

This will depend. We do not expect students in lower level classes to achieve the highest level of “Capstone”. We also do not expect all upper level students to receive the highest scores. We want you to provide an honest assessment based on the criteria on the rubric.

**8. How long will it take to score students’ works using the rubric?**

It depends. It may take a bit longer initially as you become familiar with the rubric, but once you begin scoring papers, you will likely increase the pace with which you score students’ works.

**9. Will the scores be used to evaluate my teaching?**

No, the assessments will not be used to evaluate the performance of instructors.

**10. I do not teach a quantitative course. How do I assess quantitative reasoning?**

Your course does not need to be quantitative, per se. Quantitative reasoning assignments can be incorporated into many types of courses. Please contact [Naomi Spence](#) or [Mia Budescu](#) for ways in which you can include QR in your course. You may also consult the following website - <http://www.lehman.edu/academics/wac/quantitative-reasoning.php>.