Digital Technology: Literacy & The Digital Divide

Digital Technology
- demonstrate technical and program literacy
- manage podcast projects
- use variety of modalities to express meaning
- know and apply field-related technology to solve challenges
- produce audio and video solutions
- translate data
- engage in variety of digital publishing formats
- create audience-appropriate layouts
- design creative digital solutions
- engage in copywriting and editing tasks

1. LEARNING OUTCOME

Students will become aware of the career-readiness competency Digital Technology and connect this competency and the skills associated with it to the assignment topic.

2. OBJECTIVE

The following exercises are designed to help you identify your digital technology skills and put them into practice. As you move through them, reflect on what you believe are your most significant strengths and weaknesses when it comes to digital technology.

3. DIGITAL LITERACY DEFINED

When was the last time you read an article in a printed newspaper, or the last time you used a printed map for navigation?

We have all heard the word “literacy.” However, digital literacy is a relatively new concept. Although there is no universal agreement on the definition of this term, it is generally understood to mean literacy that extends beyond words.

Increasingly, we consume information digitally rather than via print sources. We are reading content that appears online. Being digitally literate means that we understand how to access and process these materials effectively and efficiently.

Being digitally literate means being able to comprehend different types of information including textual and numerical. Digital literacy includes basic computer skills as well as the ability to understand charts, graphs, and other representations of data. Digital literacy also involves an ability to discern among different sources of digital information.

ASSIGNMENT CHECKLIST

PLEASE READ/COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:
1. Learning Outcome
2. Objective
3. Digital Literacy Defined
4. Exercise 1:
   I. Read Article About Growth of Online Reading
   II. Reflect on the Digital Divide
4. EXERCISE ONE

I. Read the Online Article

“Growth of Online Reading Fuels New Achievement Gap, Researchers Say”

Sociologists were among the first to recognize the presence of a “digital divide.” This refers to a gap in access to technology among persons of varying socio-economic backgrounds. While gaps in access to technology itself (i.e., hardware) appear to have narrowed in recent years, gaps in technical skills and efficient usage may be increasing (Dijk & Hacker, 2003). Please read the following online article regarding the growth of online reading and possible achievement gaps among students.


II. Reflect on the Digital Divide

An important aspect of critical thinking is to examine the credibility and reputation of information sources.

1. What were the major findings of the Leu, et al. study?
2. What are the implications of this research for students from different backgrounds?
3. How can schools address this challenge?
4. How easy was it for you to read this article? How was reading it different from reading a print article?
5. What step(s) did you have to take to read it?