

UNK GENERAL STUDIES ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

Distribution Courses: Analytical & Quantitative Thought Category

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of their Analytical & Quantitative Thought course, students should be able to:

- 1) Articulate the relevance of the Analytical & Quantitative Thought course to their general education.
- 2) Express formal relationships using various forms of analytical reasoning.
- 3) Define problems using techniques appropriate to the discipline.
- 4) Solve problems using techniques appropriate to the discipline.
- 5) Draw appropriate inferences from data in various forms.
- 6) Evaluate analytical results for reasonableness

The purpose of this assignment is to evaluate whether or not these learning objectives have been met. The basics of this assignment are common to all the General Studies Analytical & Quantitative Thought courses taught at UNK. Your professor may give you additional instructions that tailor the assignment specifically to your course, such as specifying a different length, the concept/s on which to focus, or the scholars whose work you are to discuss.

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

Because of the diversity of the A&Q courses, the assessment instrument may vary. The Generic Instrument below addresses A&Q learning outcomes 2 – 6 through a problem or exercise and A&Q learning outcome 1 through an essay.

GENERIC INSTRUMENT

The students are given a problem or exercise that is reflective of the majority of A&Q learning outcomes 2 – 6; a critical thinking essay portion is then given to the students to reflect on how this is important to their general education.

Problem/exercise/exam:

- Student is given a complex problem.
- Student has to analyze the problem to figure out the best way to solve. (A&Q 2; A&Q 3)
- Student solves the problem using analytical techniques learned during the class. (A&Q 3; A&Q 4)
- Student is asked to present problem-solving steps and hand in an appropriate result. (A&Q 5; A&Q 6)

Essay portion (no more than 800 words):

- Introduction
 - Describes an A&Q problem/exercise or issue
- Body
 - Reflects on the problem/exercise or issue and how this relates to society and/or industry
- Conclusion
 - Ends by writing about the importance of this problem/exercise or issue in relation to a student's general knowledge base.