

Students Take on Library Displays

THE ASSIGNMENT

ENG 111 students:

- Identify a topic or issue the community should be aware of.
- Write an argument essay establishing why the topic is important for the campus community to know about.
- Propose books/library resources for a library display on the topic.

Librarians judge the proposals and select up to three students from each class to make the display a reality in the library.

THE LIBRARY SESSION

Learning Outcomes – Students will be able to:

- Identify related ideas/words for their selected topic.
- Understand perspective (e.g., different backgrounds result in varying ways of addressing a topic).
- Perform library catalog searches to identify and locate books and other resources on their topic.
- Perform database searches to locate articles on their topic and in support of their argument.

LOGISTICS

- Librarians review and select proposals
- Communication: Lots of emails and reminders for students; keep library staff informed; Google doc display date sign-up
- Orientation session for students
- Checklists (for students and librarians)
- Post: photos of displays on social media and class LMS
- Follow-up: Appreciation gifts presented in class; assign extra credit points and input in LMS

TAKEAWAYS

- Fosters sense of community
- Enhances student engagement and interest
- Recognizes and values students' experiences
- Provides students a platform
- Builds connections and relationships between librarians and students, and between librarians and teaching faculty
- Students think about how to present their topics visually
- Provides collection development ideas

"The second research essay for the library is, in my opinion, the most essential assignment that I have ever done in my entire time at NOVA. I believe that the assignment's main intention was to help students get familiarized with the research tools all NOVA students have available to them. The way the assignment is formulated to ensure that the students use the assets at the library and online made it easy to find sources for my topic. This research assignment has made me set a new standard for the way that I find resources for my essays. I don't believe that any student didn't take away something useful from completing this assignment." – ENG 111 student

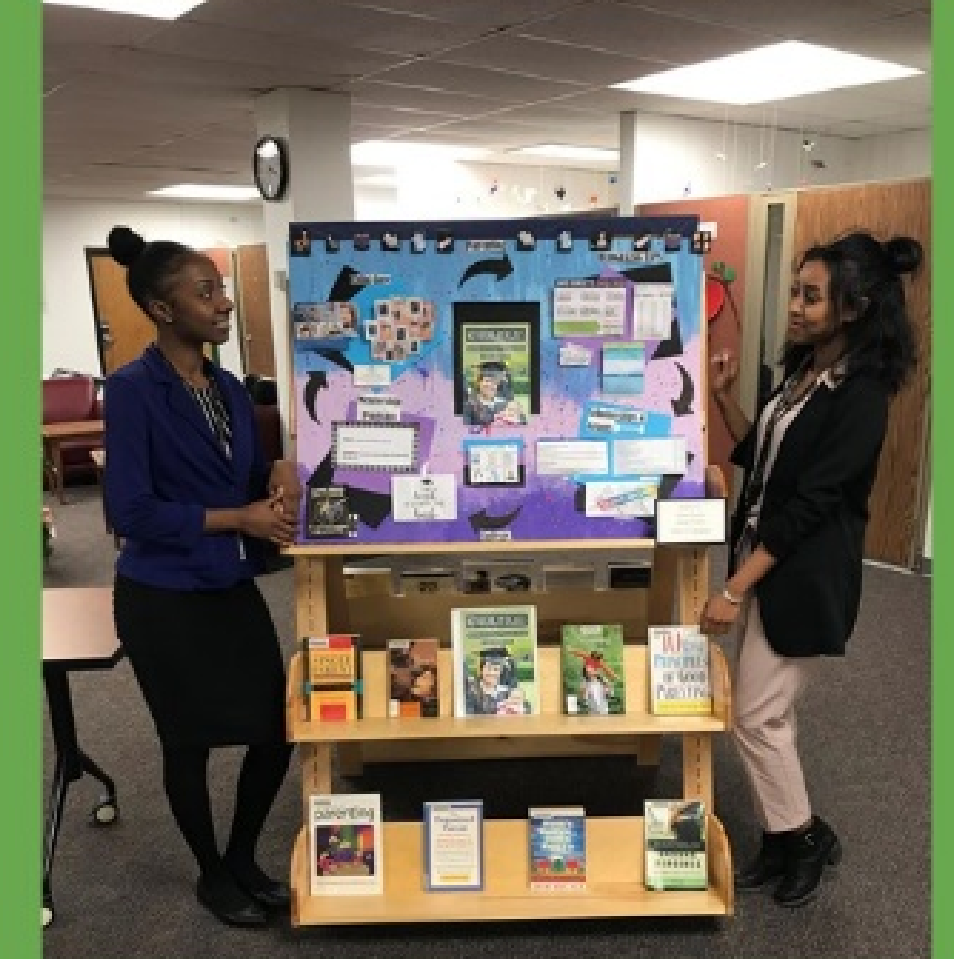


"I liked this [assignment] a lot.... There was a lot more scope to the essay and I learned about useful tools. I liked that part about making people aware of an issue. It informs people about the said issue, but also shows that the library has books on a variety of topics. It shows what people think is important to them, and helps in understanding a person's drive and to an extent the dynamic of the school." – ENG 111 student



Colleges and universities, often times, lean towards insularity when it comes to learning. But knowledge, by both definition and necessity, is a communal experience. Having the chance for librarians, students and faculty to work together in the design, research, development and implementation of library displays that present available materials relevant to the college population allows for learning communities to come into existence. It exemplifies what college education should be: an ongoing quest conducted by fellow travelers.
— Professor Carlos Schroder (English 111)

ENG 111 Display Project Class LibGuide:
libguides.nvcc.edu/eng111-librarydisplay



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