



Virtual
Humanities
Center

Great Basin College

Humanities Core Skills/ Habits of Mind

At the heart of GBC's Virtual Humanities Center (VHC) is this list of core skills and habits of mind that the humanities encourage and promote. Every aspect of the VHC is centered on these skills. They are not only college learning skills, but life skills, and they are aligned with GBC's General Education Objectives.

General Education Objective: Critical [and Creative] Thinking

- › the ability to use facts: working from evidence to a conclusion (induction)
 - › gathering enough facts to warrant the conclusion
 - › making valid inferences based on facts
 - › using accurate observation to form a hypothesis and then test it (the scientific method)
- › the ability to use principles: working from principle(s) to a conclusion (deduction)
 - › avoiding prejudices, pressure from authority or peers
 - › avoiding flaws in thinking: personal attack, overgeneralization
- › the ability to absorb, analyze and interpret complex artifacts or texts
- › the ability to assess the reliability and validity of information, especially on the web
- › the ability to synthesize information from diverse sources
- › the ability to place data into a larger context
- › the ability to make decisions based on evidence
- › the ability to analyze and interpret abstract ideas
- › the ability to recognize and compensate for ambiguity
- › the ability to prioritize
- › the ability to innovate
- › the capacity for curiosity

General Education Objective: Communication Skills

- › the capacity to write intelligently, lucidly, and fluently
- › the capacity to speak intelligently, lucidly, and fluently
- › the capacity to communicate through a variety of media: visual, performance, design & composition
- › the ability to participate effectively in deliberative conversation
- › the ability to analyze and interpret visual communication

General Education Objective: Technological Understanding

- › the ability to utilize new technologies as they are developed
- › the ability to understand the ethical implications of technological advances
- › the ability to use technology to benefit humanistic inquiry, not to replace it
- › the ability to capitalize on technology as a tool to enhance the experience of the humanities
- › the ability to use technological tools to expand and extend our understanding of what it means to be human

General Education Objective: Personal/Cultural Awareness

- › the ability to understand the historical and cultural foundations of ethical behavior, and develop and apply a personal code of ethics based on that understanding
- › the maturity to take responsibility for one's thinking and actions
- › the capacity to express an opinion that diverges from that of the majority [OR the ability to hold and defend a divergent point of view and to allow others the same right]
- › the capacity to recognize the validity of alternate viewpoints or opinions
- › the capacity to recognize multiple perspectives, from local to global
- › the capacity to accept diversity of people and ideas
- › the capacity for a critical understanding of fine arts expressions
- › an awareness of the past and its application to the present
- › the application of knowledge to real-world problems

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