

During the summers of 2010 and 2011, General Education Goal #2 was assessed from a college-wide perspective. General Education Goal #2 states that students are “able to communicate clearly and effectively,” so written and oral artifacts were collected from teachers throughout ICC. A team of teachers assessed these artifacts using AAC&U rubrics. Results from assessments drive improvements in the way that we teach, and the results from this assessment project point to an opportunity for improvement.

***We can improve student learning by more frequently requiring students to use sources and evidence to develop and support ideas in written communication.***

Here are some things to consider:

- Students should be producing written work in classes across all disciplines.
- Writers should evaluate and use credible and relevant sources to develop and support their own ideas.
- Primary source material may be obtained from field research, personal interviews, and real-world experiences.
- Secondary source material may be obtained from print and electronic library materials including high-quality databases, library materials, and the World Wide Web.
- Source material should be cited internally by referencing those sources in the text or in parentheticals.
- Source material should be cited externally by including a works cited or references page.
- Source material should be cited in a manner appropriate for the discipline and genre of the writing. For example,
  - A writer completing a literary analysis would use MLA guidelines to cite sources.
  - A writer completing a research paper on a medical related topic would use APA guidelines to cite sources.

What if I need help?

- Librarians from ICC library will come to your class to discuss how to find credible and relevant source material. For even more extensive help, an “embedded librarian” can be assigned to your class.
- Consultants from The Studio will come to your class to discuss using and citing sources and evidence in written communication.
- Colleagues who teach composition can help you design effective writing assignments.
- Writer’s handbooks like *The Little Penguin Handbook* provide resources for learning about how writers can use sources and evidence.
- Purdue’s Online Writing Lab (OWL) is an excellent source of information for teachers and students - [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl)