

This is a take home exam that will give the instructors some idea of how well you have learned to find, evaluate, and use information as you worked through your course project. Answer the questions completely, in your own words. You need not write a formal essay, short answers or, in some cases, lists or bullet points will do. If needed, you may use any resources available to answer these questions, except for each other. You may consult your class notes, the class web pages, or other reference materials. If you are having trouble you may even consult with Dr. Krygier or Ms. Peoples.

Write your answers in your own words and, if necessary, cite your sources.

This component is worth 33 points on your Final Exam.
Questions 1 – 6 are worth 3 points each; Questions 7 – 9 are worth 5 points each.

1. Describe how you used reference (secondary) sources in the class project and describe some of the characteristics of these secondary sources.
2. Describe the difference between keyword searching and subject searching.
3. You are interested in researching issues related to some vernal pools near Merced, California. Discuss how you would go about both finding a journal article and some web-based information related to this issue. Give examples of how you would construct your search using Boolean operators.
4. What are the characteristics of a scholarly journal article?
5. There are 6 - 8 elements that must be included in a journal article citation. List them.
6. What is plagiarism? How do you avoid plagiarizing somebody else's work?
7. What do we mean when we ask you to "critically evaluate" an information source? What are the important aspects to consider when you evaluate an information source? Do we evaluate books differently from web pages? If so, how?
8. You know that libraries select and purchase books and periodicals. You also know that anybody can post anything to the Web. How is that you are able to find an article through Periodical Abstracts or the Electronic Journal Center? What is it about research databases or indexes that make them unique?
9. After observing the course project presentations, discuss the characteristics of the more effective presentations. What were the aspects that made some presentations more effective than others? What kinds of things do you think detracted from the quality of some of the presentations?