



# INFORMATION LITERACY

## WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRITICAL THINKING AND INFORMATION LITERACY?

UNO's revised general education program combines **critical thinking** and **information literacy** into a single transferable outcome because they are deeply interconnected and often function in tandem.

### Both involve the ability to:

- Ask meaningful questions
- Locate and evaluate sources of evidence
- Analyze information for relevance, credibility, and bias
- Synthesize findings to form well-reasoned conclusions
- Apply insights to solve problems or make decisions

Together, these skills support a student's capacity to make thoughtful, informed, and ethical judgments in academic, civic, and professional contexts.

**Example:** A student researching climate policy must **critically evaluate** competing viewpoints, **locate credible data**, **analyze its implications**, and **argue a position** using both reasoning and evidence. This task draws significantly on critical thinking and information literacy.

## EACH SKILL HAS ITS OWN FOCUS AND SET OF COMPETENCIES

Aspect	Critical Thinking	Information Literacy
<b>Core Focus</b>	<i>Reasoning, logic, and judgment</i>	<i>Locating, evaluating, and using information effectively</i>
<b>Key Abilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyze arguments</li> <li>- Identify assumptions</li> <li>- Draw logical conclusions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find sources</li> <li>- Assess credibility</li> <li>- Integrate and cite sources</li> </ul>
<b>Questions Asked</b>	<p>“Is this argument sound?”</p> <p>“What are the implications?”</p>	<p>“Is this source credible?”</p> <p>“Is this information relevant?”</p>
<b>Primary Output</b>	Well-reasoned claims and problem-solving strategies	Well-supported, evidence-based arguments or projects
<b>Assessment Emphasis</b>	Quality of reasoning, clarity, reflection	Use of sources, evaluation of information, documentation

### Why This Matters in General Education

UNO combines these outcomes to reflect the **real-world complexity of decision-making**—students rarely need just one or the other. For instance:

- **Critical thinking** ensures students *reason well*.
- **Information literacy** ensures they *reason with credible information*.

By mastering both, students are better prepared to:

- Navigate a world saturated with information (and misinformation)
- Make responsible, evidence-based decisions
- Communicate clearly and persuasively across fields

Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://maved.unomaha.edu)