



# 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
Core Focus	<i>Reasoning, logic, and judgment</i>	<i>Locating, evaluating, and using information effectively</i>
Key Abilities	<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>
Questions Asked	<i>“Is this argument sound?” “What are the implications?”</i>	<i>“Is this source credible?” “Is this information relevant?”</i>
Primary Output	Well-reasoned claims and problem-solving strategies	Well-supported, evidence-based arguments or projects
Assessment Emphasis	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)