

# Liberal Arts in Action

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## **Context**

While not all my courses directly require my students to become global citizens and to help ameliorate a pressing social issue, I have adapted this “Liberal Arts Skills in Action” capstone-style assignment to be used in all my courses. The aspect of allowing students to choose their topic, and self-design what that product may look like, is something that 1) appeals to students, 2) allows for much more personal investment, connection, and potential analytical depth, and 3) makes grading their projects infinitely more interesting.

In more traditional courses, such as an upper-level literature course, students need to complete a full research paper and some sort of creative aspect (a multimedia project, a speech, lesson plans for a workshop, a performance, etc.); in others I have them submit a research prospectus to verify the depth of analysis and resources that they use; in others the project itself, the various scaffolding tasks (which are graded), and the reflection allows for me to verify their use of academic sources and integration of ideas. In large classes I have this as a group project, which also works well when paired with a group work rubric.