

Nina's assignment encourages students participating in their general studies courses (the Elon Core) to integrate and apply what they have learned across their Elon experiences in authentic - and therefore - personally and professionally significant ways. In particular, the student example for Nina's Core Capstone course, "The Liberal Arts: What are they Good For?" challenges students to engage the larger themes of most general studies programs - ethical reasoning, personal and social responsibility, and becoming a global citizen. These very important concepts often feel amorphous and unknowable so students push them to the edges of what they can have "taken away" from their general studies curriculum. Nina's assignment creates a framework for freedom so that students can pause, take stock of what has mattered, deepen their engagement with the topic through research, and finally, come at the topic in a way that is both particularly meaningful to them and has the potential to engage authentic audiences both inside and beyond the University. Because Nina herself shows work from a variety of classes, from introductory level Women's and Gender Studies courses to the Capstone Course of the Elon Core curriculum, faculty across disciplines and at all levels can see how this assignment might work with their students.

--Evan. A. Gatti, Associate Professor of Art History and Associate Director of the Elon University Core Curriculum