

AY 2016-17 Summary of Key Evidence for UCORE: Focus on First-Year Students Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project

Background

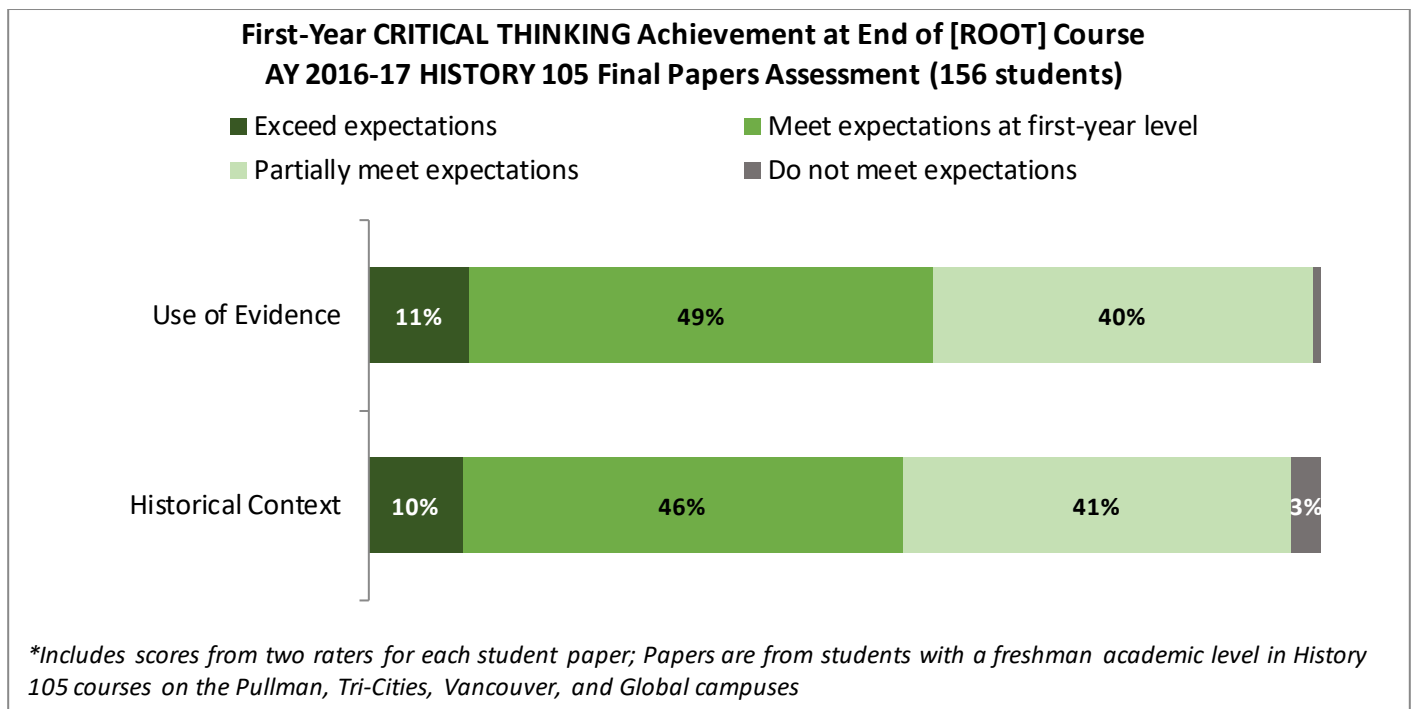
Roots of Contemporary Issues [ROOT] courses are foundational first-year experience courses for UCORE. The courses introduce students to five of WSU's Seven Learning Goals of the Baccalaureate (Critical & Creative Thinking, Information Literacy, Communication, Diversity, and Depth, Breadth & Integration of Learning) by asking students to explore and understand the historical and global roots of various issues facing the world today.

Final Papers Assessment

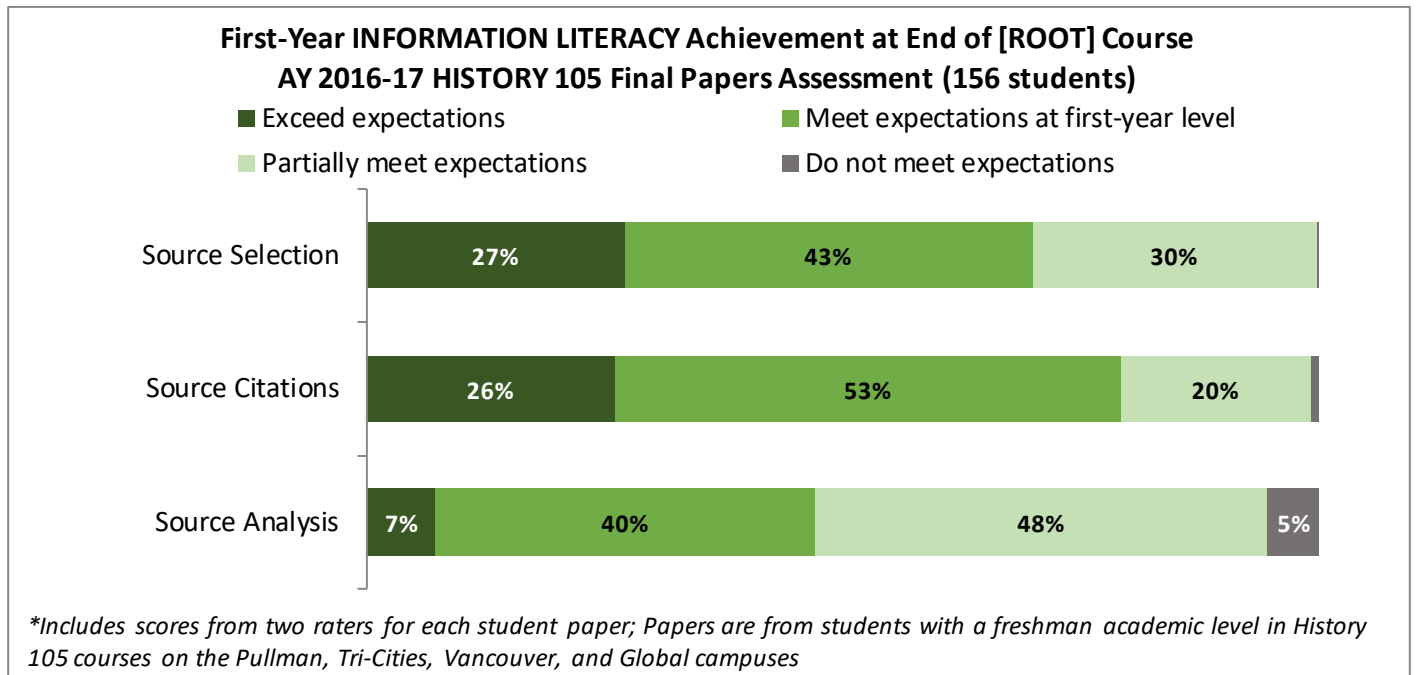
The Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project is intended to provide [ROOT] faculty with information for program improvement, as well as gauge student learning on three of the WSU Learning Goals (Critical & Creative Thinking, Information Literacy, and Communication in AY 2016-17) at the first-year level. Each academic year, beginning in AY 2012-13, [ROOT] faculty evaluate a random sample of students' final research papers from all campuses using a faculty-developed rubric. In 2018, [ROOT] faculty will expand these efforts using additional assignments as assessment artifacts. The Roots of Contemporary Issues program, in collaboration with the WSU Libraries and Office of Assessment of Teaching and Learning (ATL), coordinates the assessment, reporting and data analysis for the Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project.

Results – First-Year Students

CRITICAL and CREATIVE THINKING: Results from the AY 2016-17 Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project indicated that **99%** of first-year students exceeded, met, or partially met expectations at the first-year undergraduate level for *using evidence to support an argument* at the end of their UCORE first-year experience course [ROOT]. Additionally, **97%** exceeded, met, or partially met expectations for *developing historical context*.



INFORMATION LITERACY: Results from the AY 2016-17 Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project indicated that **100%** of first-year students exceeded, met, or partially met expectations at the first-year undergraduate level for *selecting sources appropriate to a research paper* at the end of their UCORE first-year experience course [ROOT]. Additionally, **99%** exceeded, met, or partially met expectations for *using a citation system that suggests they accurately referenced their evidence* and **95%** exceeded, met, or partially met expectations for *using sources in a way that suggests they understood the relationship between the nature of the source and the kinds of conclusions they could draw from it*.



WRITTEN COMMUNICATION: Results from the AY 2016-17 Roots of Contemporary Issues Final Papers Assessment Project indicated that **99%** of first-year students exceeded, met, or partially met expectations at the first-year undergraduate level for *following written conventions* at the end of their UCORE first-year experience course [ROOT]. Additionally, **98%** exceeded, met, or partially met expectations for *including an organizational structure* and **97%** exceeded, met, or partially met expectations for *stating an argument*.

