Information Literacy

1. What do you need to know?
   Students will demonstrate:
   a. The ability to define a topic (e.g. research question, thesis statement).
   b. The ability to identify the key concepts and terms related to the topic.
   c. The ability to develop effective search strategies.

2. Find information to answer your question.
   Students will demonstrate:
   a. The ability to interpret the parts of a citation in order to find sources.
   b. The ability to find information from a variety of resources.
   c. The ability to use electronic resources to retrieve information.

3. Evaluate your information.
   Students will demonstrate:
   a. The ability to evaluate sources (using criteria such as reliability, validity, accuracy, bias, and currency).
   b. The ability to distinguish between types of sources (scholarly, popular, trade publications, primary sources etc.).
   c. The ability to recognize resources that are appropriate to the assignment. (This ties us too closely to an assignment if we are going to agree that IL is lifelong learning or that it happens beyond the classroom - e.g. students might do background research before selecting a service learning opportunity, applying for a job or study abroad, etc.; it might be better to say 'topic' since that is what we used in 1a., however, a resource could be on topic but not academic.)

4. Use the information to do something.
   Students will demonstrate:
   a. The ability to extract (should we use synthesize rather than extract here?) concepts, details, and opinion from the resource material.
   b. The ability to draw conclusions based on the resource material.
   c. The ability to synthesize the resource material with existing knowledge.
   d. The ability to determine whether the resource material satisfies the assignment. (same issues with this term as in 3c)
   e. The ability to use the resource material to accomplish a specific task (e.g. write a research paper, create a presentation, conduct an interview, etc.)
   f. The ability to use technology as necessary to accomplish a specific task.

5. Use the information appropriately
   Students will demonstrate:
   a. An understanding of issues of copyright, royalties, and fair-use of information.
   b. An understanding of plagiarism.
   c. The ability to use a selected documentation style to cite resources.