

LLC: Practicing First Year Integration

Assignment Prompt for All LLC Classes, Fall 2021

First-Year Integration is a component of the Core Curriculum. This semester you will participate in a 2021 Fall Integration Series related to your LLC theme where you will be able to practice making connections between disciplines (for example: “Advocate Integration Series”). Your Practicing First Year Integration assignment will consist of completing this written assignment after participating in the Integration Series.

For each Integration Series event, two or more professors across multiple disciplines within your LLC theme will discuss a real-world topic that is related to your theme. In line with USD’s mission and vision, these interdisciplinary faculty team-led events will often confront humanity’s urgent challenges, such as Black Lives Matter, homelessness, climate change, or immigration.

This written reflection assignment allows you to practice integrating your knowledge across disciplines so that you can later successfully demonstrate your ability to meet the two First Year Integration learning outcomes.

The First Year Integration learning outcomes are:

- **Recognize** broad connections between multiple disciplines, perspectives, and/or approaches to learning.
- **Articulate** how the integration of different disciplines, perspectives, and approaches to learning can **enhance one’s understanding of practical issues and problems.**

Recognizing multidisciplinary approaches is important to enhance one’s understanding of a common problem. This reflection assignment is designed to allow you to practice recognizing these different approaches and how they might contribute to your own thinking on a problem or topic.

Please complete this assignment and submit it to your LLC professor by their designated due date. They will use the “Feedback Rubric for Practicing First Year Integration” to provide you with feedback on your assignment. Your professor will provide you with this rubric prior to the assignment, to help you see the level of expectation. While there is not an official word count, it is likely that one would need at least 100 words per answer to respond with an appropriate amount of depth to questions posed in Parts 2 and 3.

Practicing First Year Integration

Student Name: _____

LLC Theme (please select your LLC theme):

- Advocate:** Social justice in a local and/or global context.
- Collaborate:** Civic Engagement that leads to a participatory democracy.
- Cultivate:** Think critically. Act mindfully. Build your foundation of sustainability.
- Illuminate:** Shining light on the complex realities of the 21st century.
- Innovate:** Creativity is the power to see things differently.

PART 1: Connecting your course and the event topic to the LLC theme

List the LLC course you are taking this semester _____
(E.g., FYW150 First-Year Writing)

a) Describe how the course you are taking relates to the LLC theme.

List the title of the Integration Series event you chose to use for this assignment: _____

If it's not evident from the event title, also list the main topic addressed in this event: _____

b) Consider the topic addressed at the Integration Series event. How does this **topic** link to your LLC theme?

PART 2: Connecting the Event Topic to Academic Disciplines

In this section, you will make connections to the event topic from two academic disciplines. The two academic disciplines will be chosen from the disciplines of the professors who are presenting at the event, and will be referred to here as “discipline view for professor #1” and “discipline view for professor #2.” (Note: If your professor is presenting at the Integration Series event, your professor will likely have you use their academic discipline for discipline #1.)

- a) Consider the academic discipline for professor #1. List the discipline here (e.g., theology, psychology, etc): _____

Consider the disciplinary view of the topic for professor #1. How does a person trained in discipline #1 view the topic addressed in the Integration Series event? (Use more space, if needed.)

- For example, what questions is a person from this discipline interested in asking, and how do they go about tackling those questions? What does a person using this disciplinary perspective value? What assumptions, facts, or approaches would this person use? What challenges do they face? Provide specific examples from the Integration Series event to support your answer.
- *Notice that you are not being asked to summarize what the professor said, but rather discuss what key contributions this discipline can make to the topic.*

- b) Consider the academic discipline for professor #2. List the discipline here (e.g., theology, psychology, etc): _____

Consider the disciplinary view of the topic for professor #2. How does a person trained in discipline #2 view the topic addressed in the Integration Series event? (Use more space, if needed.)

- For example, what questions is a person from this discipline interested in asking, and how do they go about tackling those questions? What does a person using this disciplinary perspective value? What assumptions, facts, or approaches would this person use? What challenges do they face? Provide specific examples from the Integration Series event to support your answer.

- Notice that you are not being asked to summarize what the professor said, but rather discuss what key contributions this discipline can make to the topic.

PART 3: Making Connections Between Disciplines

Having experienced the Integration Series event, you have now witnessed a given topic through the lenses of at least two disciplines.

- a) What connections can you make between the disciplines in terms of this topic?** (Use more space, if needed.)
- For example, you might compare/contrast and/or consider similarities/differences between each discipline's approach to the topic, and/or what their focus is (i.e., what each discipline values).
 - *Note: This question is getting at CINL learning outcome 1: Recognize broad connections between multiple disciplines, perspectives, and/or approaches to learning.*

b) How have these different disciplinary approaches/perspectives contributed to your own thinking about the topic? (Use more space, if needed.)

- Describe the value of viewing the topic from two or more disciplinary perspectives; be sure to provide information and/or examples that support your ideas.
- *Note: This question is getting at CINL learning outcome 2: Articulate how the integration of different disciplines, perspectives, and approaches to learning can enhance one's understanding of practical issues and problems.*

