

# LEARNING TO ASSESS

Volume 8, Issue 2, Spring 2021

## Skills & Dispositions that Cultivate Democracy

*The Significance of Fairminded Critical Thinking to General Education in Community Colleges*



As this semester begins, we once again find ourselves in turbulence. The recent events at our nation's capital and upcoming presidential inauguration will be major historical events in our lives and in the lives of our students. Our community must simultaneously navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, a tense political climate, and the persistence of racism. How should we respond? What does the community expect from us? What do our students need or deserve in their education at PVCC to help them overcome and bring about improvement? For some advice we may turn to a great American thinker and educator, [John Dewey](#), who suggested "Democracy has to be born anew every generation, and education is its midwife" (The Middle Works of John Dewey, V. 9, 1899-1924: Democracy and Education, 1916). If democratic values and dispositions are desired and expected in our society, then community colleges and universities must cultivate these values and dispositions in students. PVCC's General Education Assessment (GEA) Student Learning Outcomes can serve as a guide for such work. The Outcomes are designed to help us focus on key skills for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. These skills alone do not guarantee ethical or moral actions. Paul & Elder (2009) describe the flaws of human thought, "Each of us views the world through multiple lenses, often shifting them to fit our changing feelings...much of our perspective is unconscious and uncritical and has been influenced by many forces-including social, political, economic, biological, and psychological influences." To help our students develop critical habits of thoughts, each of the GEA rubrics have been infused with the Intellectual Standards.

### GEA Rubrics

- Civic Engagement
- Critical Reading
- Diversity & Global Awareness
- Information Literacy
- Oral Communication
- Personal Dev. & Wellness
- Problem Solving
- Written Communication
- Technology

### Intellectual Standards of Thought

- Clarity
- Accuracy
- Precision
- Relevance
- Depth
- Breadth
- Logic
- Significance
- Fairness

### Zoom Assessment Labs



Tues., Feb. 2, 2:00-3:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/96887731332?pwd=alZ4a2lDNnJmaHQvL3NDNk1ld2dXdz09>

Monday, May 10, 3:00-4:00 pm

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/91359674535?pwd%3DdmpTR0YyNVhDKzVSVGZ3SIBBM3NtQT09&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1610917329638000&usg=AOvVaw3kbHRTbOmdzxsZucx5X2Wc>

How are democratic values and dispositions modeled in your class?

## Fall 2020 Sample Assessment Projects



Congrats and thank you to the following faculty who completed an assessment form in the GEA online tool during the Fall 2020 semester. The stories of faculty efforts to adapt to remote learning and help students are inspiring. Read about their work and submit your own project in the [GEA online tool](#).

Name	Course	GEA Rubric or Course
<b>John Hayashi</b>	HCR 240	Problem Solving
<b>James Rubin</b>	CPD 150	Course
<b>Michele Marion</b>	SOC 101	Course
<b>Kim Dean</b>	MAT 114, MAT 115	Problem Solving
<b>Julie Olander</b>	CHM 130	Course
<b>Tricia Montgomery</b>	FON 247	Critical Reading
<b>Susan Jeffer</b>	CRE 101	Critical Reading
<b>Ilse Kremer</b>	BIO 181	Information Literacy
<b>Tatum Voeller</b>	HES 100	Course
<b>Victoria Bradenburg</b>	ENG 101	Course
<b>David Pegram</b>	ENG 101	Information Literacy
<b>Andrea Macias-Murrieta</b>	CPD 102 AB	Personal Development
<b>Felicia Ramirez</b>	COM 225	Course
<b>Tatjana Thomas</b>	BIO 205	Course
<b>Michael Noschka</b>	ENG 102	Course
<b>Casey Durandet</b>	PHY 101, PHY 111, PHY 112	Critical Reading, Problem Solving
<b>Ryan Stone</b>	CRW 150	Written Communication

### COMING THIS FALL

The Assessment for Learning Team is developing two new dimensions for the Personal Development & Wellness rubric:

### **Financial Literacy** **Career Planning**

These two outcomes will help the college be more explicit and intentional, measure student's abilities to achieve these outcomes in curricular and cocurricular contexts, and track our progress to help students successfully reach their educational and professional goals. For more information or to get involved in the development process, contact your division's ALT representative or email Felicia Ramirez.

#### Assessment Resources:

**Assessment for Learning Website:** <https://www.paradisevalley.edu/employees/assessment-learning>  
**LibGuide:** <https://paradisevalley.libguides.com/generaleducation>  
**GEA Online Tool:** <https://community.paradisevalley.edu/gea/>  
**For Help Email:** [felicia.ramirez@paradisevalley.edu](mailto:felicia.ramirez@paradisevalley.edu)