Focus: Question 2 - ***Worked on a paper or a project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources.***

Rationale: Like all other disciplines, the field of aging has an ever increasing plethora of data and information most of which is available through the internet. Data and information comes in many forms and charts progress in the field of aging - medical research is lengthening the life span, public policy is charting new frontiers, technology is affording people more independence in their later years and best practices of service delivery are improving the quality of life for older adults. An important part of the college experience is to teach students not only how to access information but how to use critical thinking to assess its value and understand how to apply the knowledge as a practitioner. The goal is for students is to become life-long learners who have the skills to access and analyze information and apply it to their practice in the field of aging.

Implementation: For each course in the Gerontology and Nursing Home Administration Programs students are required to write one or more major papers that include citations and references. Each faculty currently provides instruction in the following:

- Subject or topic
- Style – APA, MLA, CMS
- Length
- Number of citations and references required

Instructions will be expanded to include a written presentation on key internet data sources for the field of aging and how to analyze and interpret the information. The presentation will contain examples from websites including but not limited to:

- Alliance for Aging Research
- Improving Data on America's Aging Population
- Data Sources for Studying Aging
- Survey on the use of information sources in the field of aging
- Health Data & Statistics Research Guide: Older Adults
- Center for Demography of Health and Aging
- Grant makers in Aging

In order to increase students' use and understanding of data and information found on the internet, faculty will be asked to increase the number of required citations and references for each paper by two (2). For instance, if the faculty generally asks students to have three (3) citations and references for a paper then it would increase to five (5). When grading the paper, faculty will also take into account how well the student explains how the citations contribute to the student's understanding of the subject or topic.

Measure 1: Faculty increase the number of required citations and references by two (2) for each major paper.

Measure 2: Gerontology and Nursing Home Administration students will receive information on key internet data sources for aging and how to analyze and interpret the information.

Measure 3: A post-test will be given for item 2 at the end of the semester. The goal being to increase the number of positive responses in the "Regularly" and "More than Once" response choices.