

The Humanities

MATTER!

v.2

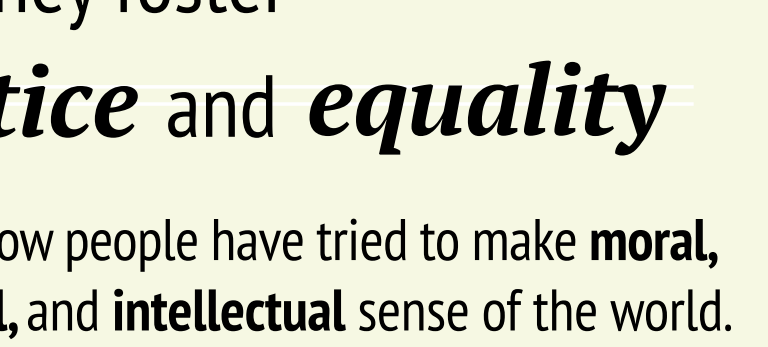
The Humanities are academic disciplines that seek to understand and interpret the human experience, from individuals to entire cultures, engaging in the discovery, preservation, and communication of the past and present record to enable a deeper understanding of contemporary society.

The Humanities encompass literature, classics, ancient and modern languages, history, philosophy, media studies, the fine and performing arts, and other related subjects. It can be a challenge to show the benefits the Humanities bring; in this infographic we gather available evidence to show that the Humanities matter!

Presented by 4Humanities and UCL Centre for Digital Humanities

WHAT THE HUMANITIES DO

The Humanities are about what it is to be human.



Understanding others in the world through their

LANGUAGES,
 HISTORIES,
 & CULTURES.

They foster

social justice and **equality**

&

reveal how people have tried to make **moral, spiritual, and intellectual** sense of the world.

They teach empathy.

The Humanities teach us to deal **critically and logically** with **subjective, complex, imperfect** information.

They teach us to **weigh evidence skeptically**, and **consider more than one side** of every question.



Humanities students build skills in **writing** and **critical reading**.

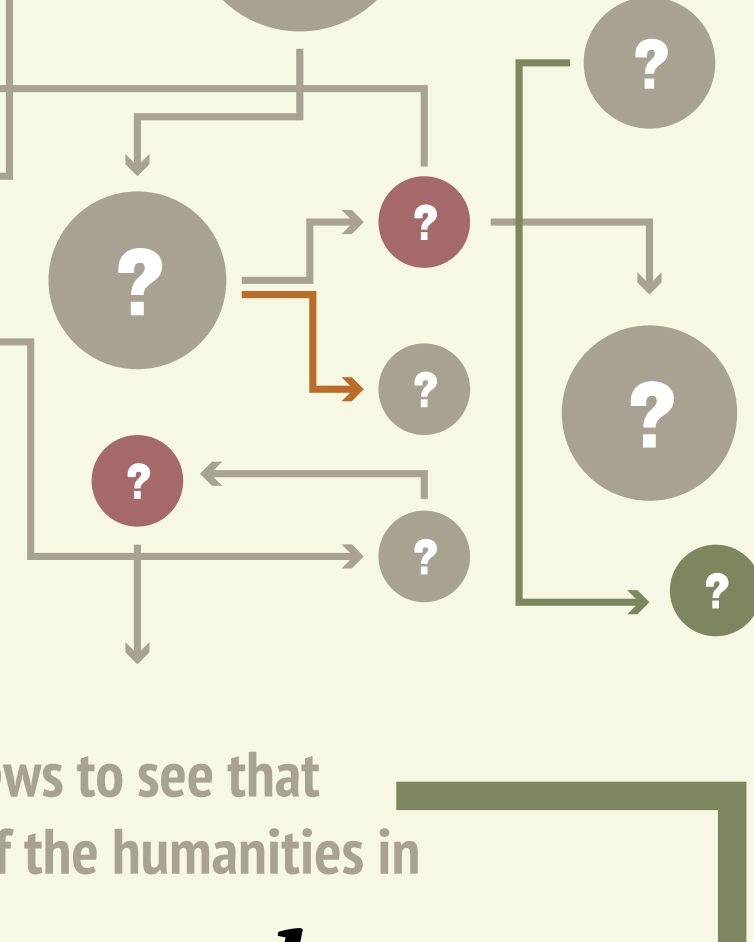
The Humanities encourage us to **think creatively**.

They teach us to reason about being human and to ask questions about our world.

The Humanities develop informed and critical citizens.

Without the Humanities democracy will not flourish.

The value of the Humanities is more often in the **questions posed** than the answers found; **Humanistic study is not formulaic.**



One only needs to turn on the news to see that we need the skills and knowledge of the humanities in

understanding other cultures, being able to communicate effectively, **realizing the ramifications of history**, and **analyzing human behavior**.

The Humanities are more important to global society than ever.

THE CRITICS SAY...

Critics accuse the Humanities of lacking cultural or economic relevance.

They say **the Humanities have no purpose**.

They say our academic work is inaccessible to the public.

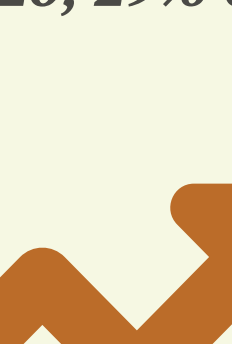
They say that Humanities students are **not immediately employable**.

They say in times of economic recession resources should not be spent on the study of the human condition.

They say **the Humanities are in crisis**.

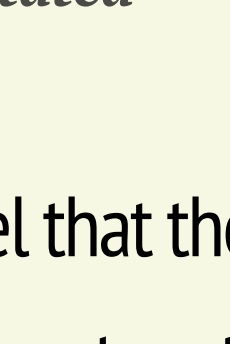
BUT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS...

The 2020 Survey of the Humanities in American Life showed that:



85%

of Americans respond favorably to the term "Humanities".



90%

of Americans believe the Humanities help people understand others whose lives are different from their own.



73%

of Americans believe the Humanities make the economy stronger.



Almost **2/3** of Humanities graduates read fiction often or very often, compared to 47% of college graduates generally.

50%

of American adults wish they took more language courses while in school.

College graduates are more likely to have been highly exposed to the Humanities as children than people with only a high school education.

Over **two-thirds** of Humanities and Social Science graduates enter the **private sector**, primarily the **financial and business sectors**, followed by **wholesaling and retailing**.

These sectors represent some of the fastest growing areas within the economy.

State of Humanities in 2019

68%

stated that their job provided the "opportunity to do what I do best every day"

67%

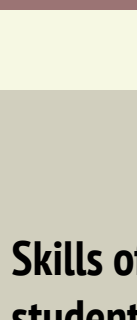
were "deeply interested in the work that I do"

54%

believed that they had the "ideal job" for them

Humanities graduates have found **satisfaction** in many areas in their everyday lives.

In 2016, 93% of U.S. hiring managers said that soft skills were an "essential" & "very important" factor in making hiring decisions:



Communication



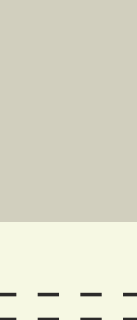
Agility



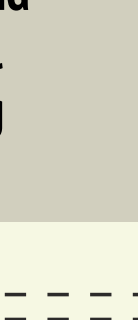
Self-management



Interpersonal Skills



Creativity & Innovation

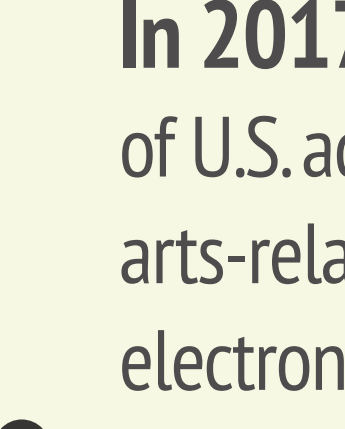


Critical & Analytical Thinking

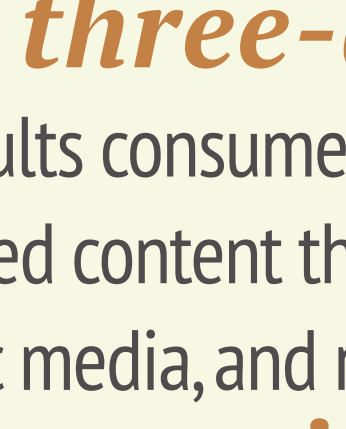
Skills of Humanities students are in demand from employers:



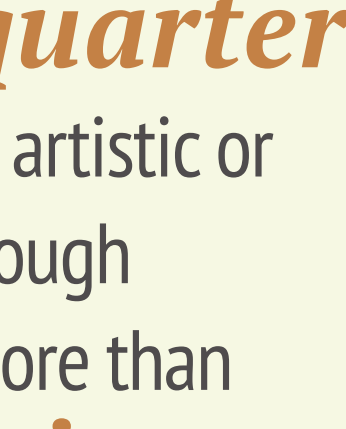
want effective oral and written communication



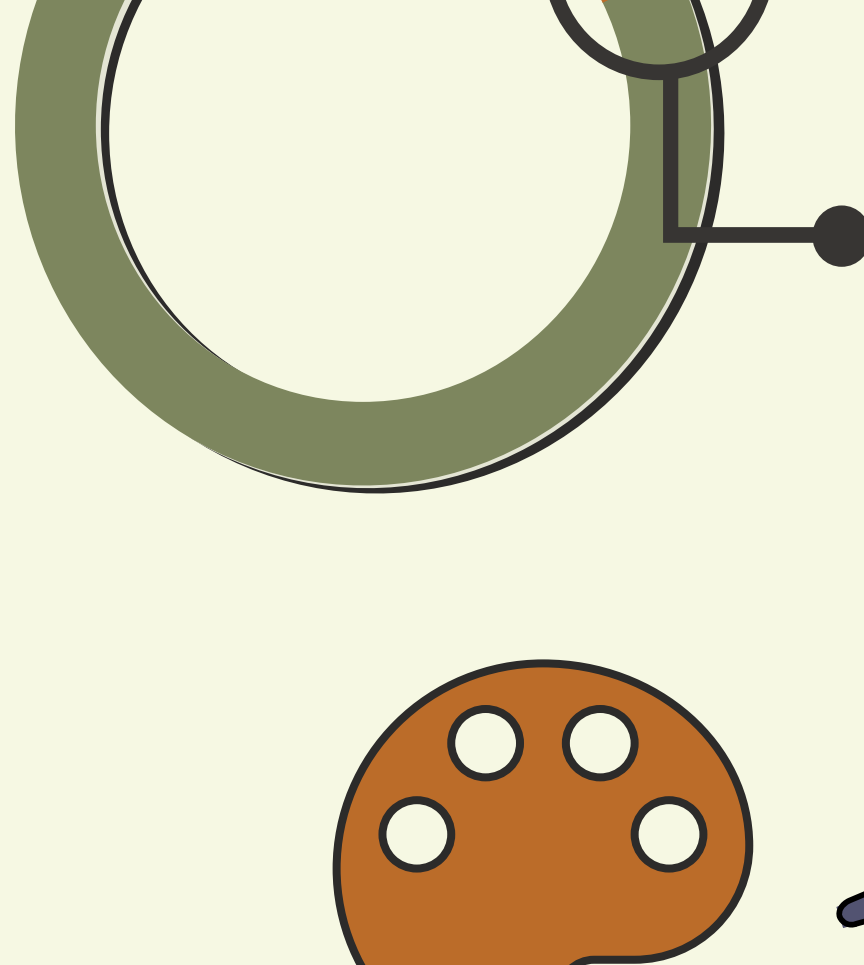
want critical thinking and analytical reasoning



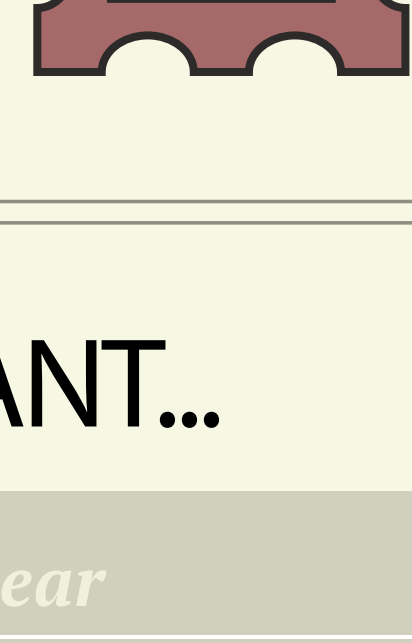
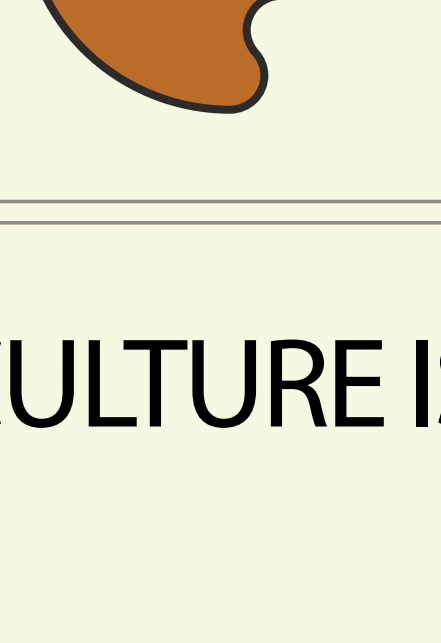
want employees to analyze and solve complex problems



want employees to make ethically informed decisions



In 2017, **three-quarters** of U.S. adults consumed artistic or arts-related content through electronic media, and more than half attended **artistic, creative, or cultural activities**.



CULTURE IS IMPORTANT...

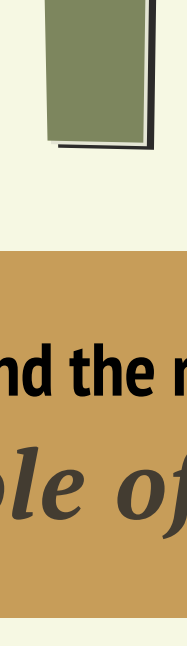
86%

of Americans feel the Humanities help strengthen the American democracy.



97%

of Americans occasionally engage in at least one form of Humanities activity.



Every year

55%

of Americans read works of fiction, including novels, plays, and short stories

46%

watch history shows on TV or online

25%

read biographies

6.5%

read poetry

4%

write poetry

We need to understand the role that culture plays in people's lives: this is the role of the Humanities.



The Humanities are about discovery: **discover the Humanities!**

4Humanities.org

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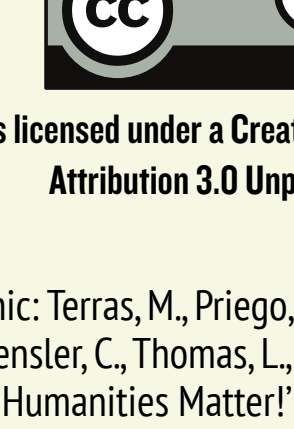
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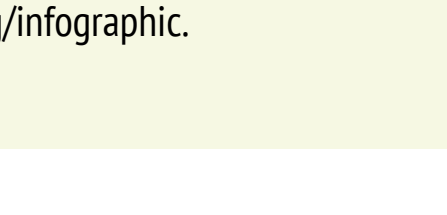
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Data collected from references by Melissa Terras with assistance from Ernesto Priego and the 4Humanities.org collective: Alan Liu, Geoffrey Rockwell, Stéfan Sinclair, Christine Henseler, and Lindsay Thomas. Version 2 data updated by Madeleine Sorapure with assistance from Melody Rong.



Do you know any more statistics about the Humanities? Please do contact us at contact@4humanities.org



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