LIBS 150 is all about finding information and using it—in other words, the class is all about how you create knowledge.

Creating knowledge means gathering info and then transforming it or extending it somehow: finding ideas and facts and then analyzing them, putting them together in new ways, adding your own ideas to them, and so on.

Often, when you’ve created knowledge, you will share it with others. And often, when you’ve shared knowledge, other people will give you feedback, or build on and extend the knowledge you’ve created.

An everyday example of knowledge creation is finding a recipe, putting your own spin on it, then posting your tweaked recipe to a foodie website.

A classroom example of knowledge creation is gathering info on a topic, analyzing or critiquing the info, adding your own point of view to the info you’ve gathered, then making a presentation in class.

In this discussion forum, you will write 1-3 paragraphs on how you gather info and create knowledge for your job, for a hobby, or for some other purpose. You will also briefly respond to a classmate’s post.

Step A: Write 1-3 paragraphs on yourself as knowledge creator. In your post, you may consider some or all of these questions, or bring in other points you want to make:

- What is a situation at work or elsewhere in your life where you gather info and then create knowledge?

- To gather info, what kind of sources do you use? How do you know the sources are trustworthy? Please be specific—name a resource or two.

- How do you create knowledge from the info you’ve gathered? Is there some way that you analyze the info, put info together in new ways, add your own ideas to the info? Be specific—give an example or two.

- Do you share the knowledge you’ve gathered? If so, how? How does the knowledge impact others? Do they give you feedback? If you don’t share it with others, how do you use the knowledge?

Part B: Briefly respond to a classmate:

Reply to a classmate’s post. Say something more than just, “That’s interesting!” or “Good post!” Here are some ideas to help you respond to a classmate (you can use one of these, or another idea of your own):

- Describe a similar situation you’ve experienced.

- Ask a question that will help you understand in more detail your classmate’s knowledge creation.

- Suggest a information source that will help your classmate in their research and knowledge creation.

Robert Miller
Reference and Instruction Librarian
University of Maryland University College