

Additional Resources – Quantitative Reasoning

What is Quantitative Literacy?

Quantitative Literacy is "not so much about understanding abstract concepts as about applying elementary tools in sophisticated settings" (Steen, 2001).

What is a Q Course?

- Instruction on applying mathematical concepts and techniques to solve problems
- Instructors may review the basic math that students are applying
- A minimum of one class period must be spent on quantitative instruction, but it need not all be in the same period.
- Assessment of learning must occur via at least 2 assignments
- These assignments must be part of final grade
- Students must receive feedback on assignments so they can assess their level of mastery

Why is it Important?

As a culture we have long viewed mathematics as the domain of the talented few rather than as an essential life skill, every bit as important as the ability to write a clear essay or give a persuasive presentation. This perspective makes incorporating Q skills into a class a challenge for both students and instructors.

The [first chapter](#) of *Mathematics and Democracy: The Case for Quantitative Literacy* a book published by The National Council on Education and the Disciplines makes a strong argument for why Quantitative Literacy is essential for our students. Students are encouraged to read it.

Resources

- [Sharon Taylor](#) -- Current 'Q' Faculty Associate (interim)
- [Q Course Designation Guidelines](#) (PDF)
- [Adding 'Q' to a Course](#) (PPT)
- [Making Basic Graphs in Excel](#) (video)

Just For Fun

- [Using 'Q' Skills to Read Minds](#)
- [Reasoning Spatially](#)