

Create training and professional development resources on the role of the humanities at your local institution.

Audience for this recommendation:

Provosts, deans, chairs, faculty, students.

WE1S's study of the media shows that infrastructural problems specific to the humanities in institutional structure, admissions and enrollment, and resource allocation are often engulfed in wider discourse about higher education in general (see [KF 1-3](#)). This often generates miscommunication between institutions (which can overlook important aspects of these problems) and humanists (who can feel marginalized in the solution-building process).

How can the various parties in the university community achieve--and more importantly, *communicate* to each other--a shared sense of the humanities' specific mission, methodologies, and goals?

Try this:

→ **Create a video tutorial for the campus community.** Drawing on the WE1S's "[Advocacy and Outputs Planning Team Report and Recommendations](#)," create a video (20-minute) that illustrates the following: (a) an overview of the *humanities mission* (theoretical foundations); (b) a conceptual toolkit of *humanities methods* (giving a sense of similarities and differences with the methods of other disciplinary areas and majors); and (c) a showcase of *humanities outputs* (as embodied by curricula, research projects and centers, initiatives, and events at your institution). The methods toolkit should call attention to the fact that humanistic methods, labor, and achievements--like

human experience generally--is often hard to quantify or formalize (see [KF 4-10](#)). The video should be featured on your university's website as recommended training for students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Such a video, along with similar ones for other disciplinary areas, would help develop a shared, interdisciplinary understanding across your campus of the role of the humanities.

→ **Appoint an "Interdisciplinary Humanities Committee" (IHC) at the university or college level.** Depending on local conditions and available resources, members serving in the IHC committee would meet regularly to plan workshops/seminars for both faculty and students about how to integrate and connect the humanities with other campus initiatives and activities (cf., [A-5-1](#) on "humanities ambassadors"). Special effort should go toward organizing a running series of presentations by local faculty on the relationships between the sciences and the humanities, in order to debunk stereotypes and assumptions about apparently separate intellectual domains.

Resources

* Research backing up this recommendation: [KF-1-3](#)

* Related materials: WE1S Bibliography: [Value of Humanities](#) | [other resources to come]