

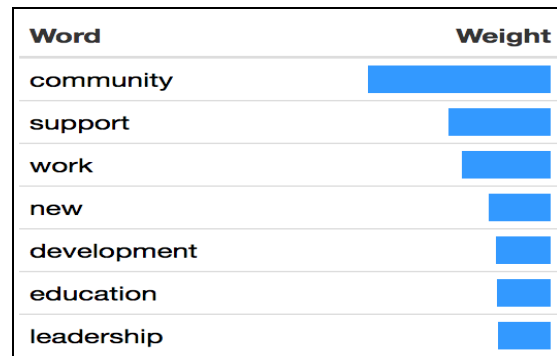
Paradoxically, the media both promotes and obscures the value of humanities labor.

In studying our [Collection 1](#) (82,324 articles from U.S. journalistic media mentioning “humanities”), we observed in our key finding [KF-4-9](#) that the media promotes a view that humanities work leads to valued employment and financial outcomes (see [KF 4-9](#)). Paradoxically, however, this speculative narrative represents humanities labor as both *visible* and *invisible*. For example, we see in a [topic model](#) of the collection (C-14.250, 250-topics) that the articles highly associated with topics [2](#), [25](#), and [73](#) foreground humanistic activities--such as critical thinking, creative writing, and community building--as *necessary work* that will ensure quantifiable results like enrollment, income, or jobs in the future. These narratives, at the same time, conceal the fact that these activities are intangible, uncompensated, and perhaps unfinishable forms of *surplus labor*.

In topics where we find this paradox, top-frequency words tend to group economic and business-related terms with those that are (ostensibly) non-economic. For example, [topic 73](#)'s top words include *community, support, work, new, development, education, and leadership*. The relative weights of these words demonstrate that the frequency of *community* eclipses that of *work*. This difference suggests that the articles associated with topic 73 spend more time describing non-economic ideas of *community* and less time discussing how such humanities *work* actually proceeds. This is confirmed through close readings of top articles. In addition, the headlines of top articles, such as “*Dickinson Receives*

\$900,000 Grant...” and “*Associated Colleges...awarded \$2.7 million grant...*” (see [images](#)) prioritize money and make the exact nature of humanities labor invisible.

Understanding how the public as represented in the media values the humanities, WE1S suggests, requires attending to the media’s paradoxical representation of this labor. How can humanists regain narrative control over their own in/visibility and surface the value of their own labor without rehearsing the media’s rhetoric of economic value as surplus labor extraction?



Topic 73’s Top Words. C-1-250’s [DFR Browser](#).

Top 20 Documents

1. "Dickinson Receives \$900,000 Grant from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation". The Dickinsonian: Dickinson College
2. "Associated Colleges of the South awarded \$2.7 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation". The Centre College Cento: Centre College
3. "TESTIMONY February 01, 1995 SANDY GUTIERREZ SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE METANETWORKS INC. BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES". OQ Congressional Testimony
4. "PREPARED TESTIMONY OF SANDY GUTIERREZ SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE METANETWORKS INC. BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES". Federal News Service
5. "Why Altered Carbon is not about the future — nor is any other...". The Conversation
6. "Collective Impact: How Nonprofits Can (and Should) Serve as Catalysts for Transformative Social Change". US Black Engineer and Information Technology: Baltimore
7. "Stokes; Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future of Cleveland". Call & Post, All-Ohio edition: Cleveland, Ohio
8. "Council Credits Others...Too". Newsday (New York)
9. "Chicago cultural leader joins Charlie Newell as co-leader of University's professional theater". The Pulse: Finch University of Health Sciences
10. "The 21st Century Principal: Liberal Arts & Humanities vs Science ...". 21st Century Principal

Topic 73’s Articles from [Topic Bubbles](#).

Document collection studied: [C-1](#)
 Topic model of collection: [C-1.250](#) (250 topics)
 Interesting sample topics in the model: [2](#), [25](#), [73](#)
 Representative articles: [a](#), [b](#), [c](#)
 Evidentiary documentation: [Team 4 Report](#).