

## Humanities funding for K-12 primary and high-school education receives the least media coverage.

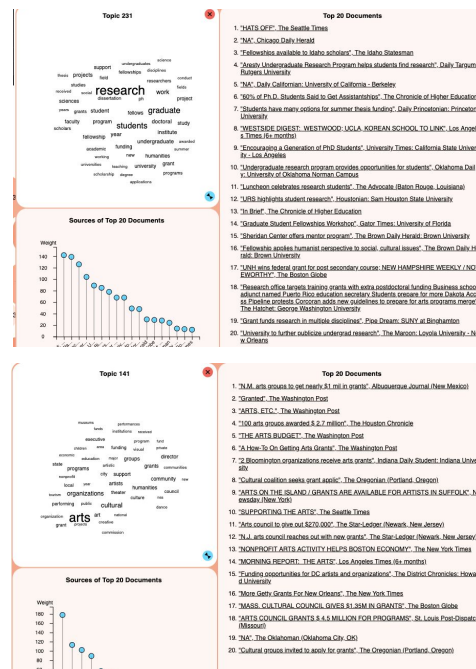
Our [Collection 1](#), consisting of 82,324 articles in U.S. journalistic media mentioning “humanities,” shows that funding for K-12 (kindergarten through grade 12 in the U.S.) humanities education has only a minor presence in public discourse. Additionally, we observe that public funding is the primary source highlighted in the limited media coverage on the subject.

In a [topic model](#) we made of the collection (C-1.250, 250 topics), topics [86](#), [141](#), and [231](#) all represent public discourse on funding for humanities education. Of the three topics, K-12 only appears in topic [86](#), and even then just in three of twenty of the articles most highly associated with the topic. Even though this topic is about public and private grants for humanities education, it barely mentions K-12. We note also that government funding, including from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and [Humanities Councils](#) in U.S. states,<sup>1</sup> has a more prominent presence in the topic than funding from private agencies (e.g., articles [a](#), [b](#).)

By contrast, [topic 231](#) focuses on public and private funding exclusively for higher education (e.g., articles [a](#); [b](#)), and [topic 141](#) centers on government agencies’ support for informal humanities education through community-based organizations and individuals (e.g., articles [a](#); [b](#)). Neither topic contains discussions relevant to K-12.

Important questions for the humanities arise from these observations. Is limited media coverage of funding for K-12 due to less

funding for the K-12 system overall, to a general lack of media interest in humanities at that level, or to other factors? Does it suggest that government agencies prefer supporting humanities education through community-based, informal learning initiatives (e.g., started by Humanities Councils or museums) over funding formal humanities instruction and activities in the K-12 system? Why does funding *higher* education appear so disproportionately more important in the public eye? Finally, why is private funding largely absent in public discourse of K-12’s humanities education?



Top 20 articles of topics #231 and #141.

Document collection studied: [C-1](#)  
 Topic model of collection: [C-1.250](#) (250-topics)  
 Interesting sample topics: [86](#), [231](#), [141](#)  
 Representative articles: [a](#), [b](#).  
 Evidentiary documentation for this key finding:  
[WE1S report](#)

<sup>1</sup> Some funding for Humanities Councils comes from private sources ([see here](#)).