

Undergraduates and non-undergraduates both value the humanities as useful but not prestigious.

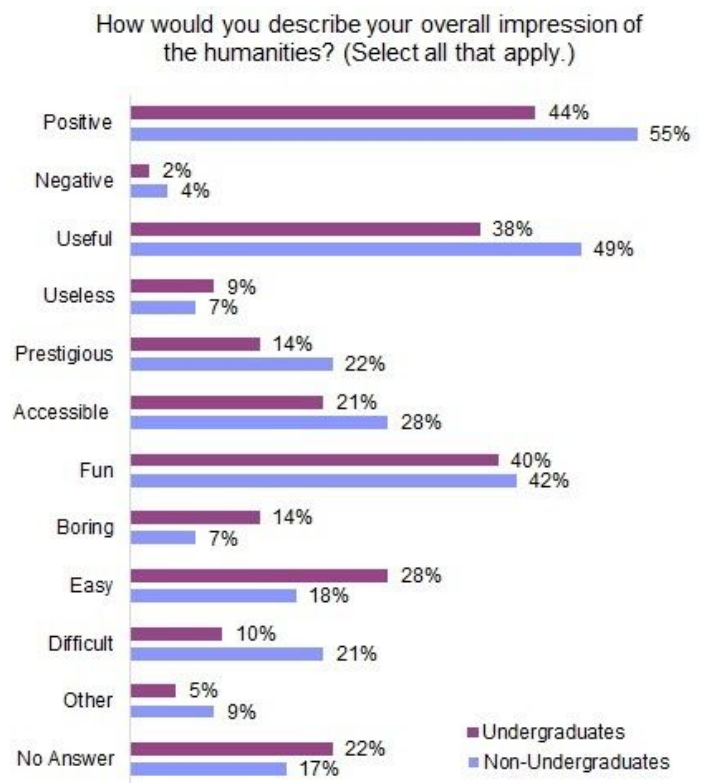
(Survey results complementing WE1S big-data research)

Surveyed by WE1S at the University of Miami, both undergraduate and non-undergraduates¹ chose the sentiments *positive*, *useful*, and *fun* as their top three reactions to the question: “How would you describe your overall impression of the humanities?” And a sentiment of *negative* was the last choice of both groups (see graph).

However, in response to the same question, the two groups differ in how challenging they perceived the humanities to be. While *easy* was the fourth top description chosen by undergrads, it was seventh down the list for non-undergrads. In parallel, the humanities are *difficult* for 10% of undergrads and 21% of non-undergrads. The difference is likely due to the fact that non-undergraduate respondents often engage with the humanities in a postgraduate or professional capacity (where they face more advanced or complicated problems), while most undergrads experience the humanities in their bachelor-degree level schooling, often as required course work. Indeed, when asked “In what context(s) do you hear the word “humanities” used?,” 73% of undergrads answered *at school*. (Other answers included: 48% in *books or media*; 13% *at home*; and only 9% *at work*.) By contrast, 24% of non-undergrads heard the word *at work*.

Perhaps for reasons related to the perceived easiness of the humanities at the undergrad level, fewer undergrads (14%) than non-undergrads (22%) think of the humanities as *prestigious*. However, both groups see the humanities as more *useful* than *prestigious*. This is the exact inverse of both groups’ view about

the sciences by comparison with the humanities (see [KF-9-5](#)).



Population studied: [C-HS-2](#), [C-HS-3](#), [C-HS-4](#), [C-HS-5](#)
Evidentiary documentation: [MR-9-5](#), [MR-9-15](#), [MR-9-21](#)
Related Materials: [KF-9-5](#), [KF-9-6](#), [KF-5-4](#)

¹ Non-undergraduates included graduate students, faculty, and staff.