

## U. Miami Survey: First Generation Opinions of the Humanities

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*In this report, we analyzed a cluster of questions (QU31, Q179, QU34-1, QU37, QU38, Q194, Q42, Q43, Q38-1) that asked our respondents about the humanities, and compared the results of undergraduates and non-undergraduates who identified as first generation/not sure with those who did not.*

*Note: The data used for this mini-report involved splitting those who answered "yes" or "not sure" from those who answered "no" to the question, "Do you consider yourself a first-generation student/Do you consider yourself to have been a first-generation student?" (QU11 for undergrads and Q13 for non-undergrads). Therefore, there is no "no answer" category for these statistics.*

### Undergraduates:

**QU31: Please make a list of 5-10 words that you associate with the humanities.**

Responses based on 65 first-generation respondents and 169 non-first-generation respondents.



Fig. 1: QU31 word cloud of respondents who identified as first-generation or unsure of status

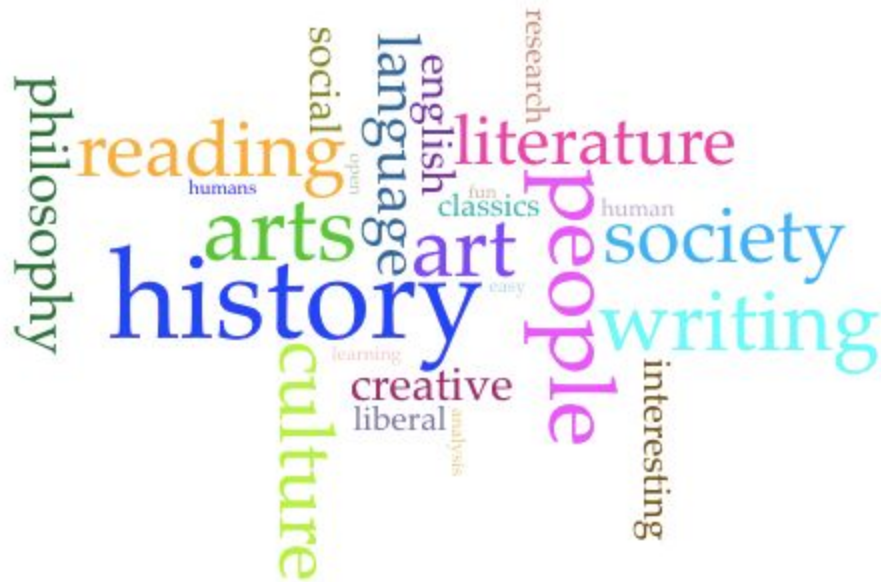


Fig. 1: Q179 word cloud of respondents who did not identify as first-generation

**Q179: How would you describe your overall impression of the humanities? (Select all that apply.)**

Responses based on 69 first-generation and 173 non-first-generation respondents.

First-Generation:

- Fun: 52%
- Boring: 13%
- Useless: 11%
- Useful: 54%
- Prestigious: 20%
- Difficult: 9%
- Easy: 43%
- Positive: 60%
- Negative: 3%

Accessible: 19%

Other: 9%

### Non-First-Generation:

Fun: 52%

Boring: 21%

Useless: 12%

Useful: 47%

Prestigious: 18%

Difficult: 14%

Easy: 34%

Positive: 56%

Negative: 3%

Accessible: 31%

Other: 6%

### **QU34-1 How would you define the value or purpose of a college education? (Please check all that apply.)**

Responses based on 69 first-generation and 171 non-first-generation respondents.

### First-Generation:

Makes you a good person: 29%

Teaches Marketable Job Skills: 74%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 81%

Gives you Prestige: 61%

Gives you personal fulfillment/ allows you to follow your passion or explore your interests: 89%

No value: 0%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 81%

### Non-First-Generation:

Makes you a good person: 24%

Teaches Marketable Job Skills: 74%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 76%

Gives you Prestige: 62%

Gives you personal fulfillment/ allows you to follow your passion or explore your interests: 83%

No value: 2%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 76%

**QU37: Apart from your major, how often do you take part in any extracurricular activities, attend any events, or have any hobbies that might fall under the umbrella of the humanities or the arts (going to plays, reading, playing the trombone, etc)?**

Responses based on 70 first-generation and 170 non-first-generation respondents.

First-Generation:

Often: 49%  
Sometimes: 41%  
Never: 10%

Non-First-Generation:

Often: 48%  
Sometimes: 40%  
Never: 12%

**QU38: How important do you consider the humanities to be in your life (either as an academic field or as individual subjects, like literature, history, etc.)?**

Responses based on 71 first-generation and 171 non-first-generation respondents.

First-Generation:

Very Important: 46%  
Somewhat Important: 49%  
Not Important: 6%

Non-First-Generation:

Very Important: 42%  
Somewhat Important: 46%  
Not Important: 11%

## Non-Undergraduates:

**Q194: How would you describe your overall impression of the humanities? (Select all that apply)**

Responses based on 71 first-generation and 126 non-first-generation respondents.

### First-Generation:

Fun: 44%  
Boring: 7%  
Useless: 6%  
Useful: 61%  
Prestigious: 28%  
Difficult: 17%  
Easy: 22%  
Positive: 64%  
Negative: 6%  
Accessible: 29%  
Other: 8%

### Non-First-Generation:

Fun: 54%  
Boring: 9%  
Useless: 10%  
Useful: 57%  
Prestigious: 25%  
Difficult: 30%  
Easy: 22%  
Positive: 66%  
Negative: 5%  
Accessible: 35%  
Other: 12%

**Q42: Apart from your work, how often do you take part in any activities, attend any events, or have any hobbies that might fall under the umbrella of the humanities or the arts (going to plays, reading, playing the trombone, etc)?**

Responses based on 72 first-generation and 125 non-first-generation respondents.

First-Generation:

Often: 54%  
Sometimes: 36%  
Never: 10%

Non-First-Generation:

Often: 62%  
Sometimes: 31%  
Never: 6%

**Q43: How important do you consider the humanities to be in your life (either as an academic field or as individual subjects, like literature, history, etc)?**

Responses based on 72 first-generation and 125 non-first-generation respondents.

First-Generation:

Very Important: 49%  
Somewhat Important: 47%  
Not Important: 4%

Non-First-Generation:

Very Important: 63%  
Somewhat Important: 27%  
Not Important: 10%

**Q38\_1 How would you define the value or purpose of a college education? (Please check all that apply.)**

Responses based on 71 first-generation and 125 non first-generation respondents

First-Generation:

Makes you a good person: 24%

Teaches Marketable Job Skills: 60%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 69%

Gives you prestige: 49%

Gives you personal fulfillment/ allows you to follow your passion or explore your interests: 81%

No value: 0%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 69%

Non-First-Generation:

Makes you a good person: 28%

Teaches Marketable Job Skills: 60%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 78%

Gives you prestige: 63%

Gives you personal fulfillment/ allows you to follow your passion or explore your interests: 86%

No value: 1%

Prepares you to contribute something positive to society and the world: 78%