

Faculty Report on CASLO Evidence

Program:

CASLO Focus:

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|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Literacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Written Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> Quantitative Reasoning |

Student sample has been rated:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exemplary level | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal level |
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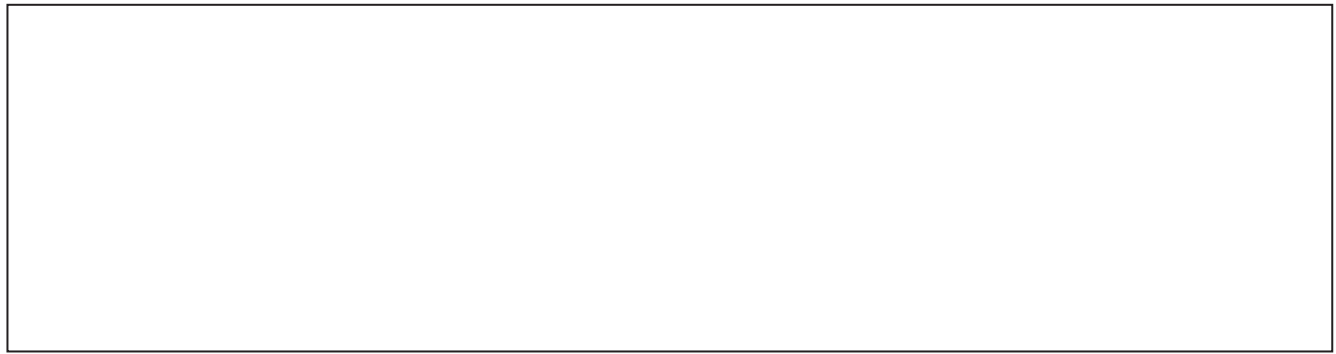
Your course has been selected for this activity because it requires students to demonstrate exit-level proficiency for the indicated program and CASLO. Please consider the following guidelines as you select appropriate evidence of student learning for this activity:

- Select two samples of student work, one that demonstrates exemplary achievement of the CASLO and another that demonstrates achievement at (or near) the minimal level required for the degree. Choose evidence from an “embedded” assignment, project, or exam that normally exists as part of your course.
- Review the statements associated with the relevant CASLO standard (see attached) to assure that the evidence correlates adequately with the CASLO. In general, choose evidence which corresponds to at least fifty percent of the outcome statements.
- Select evidence produced with an appropriate degree of independence. In general, student work directed by prescriptive advice is not appropriate for this activity.

Please briefly describe your assessment of the evidence; identify qualities in the student work that establish its level of achievement for the CASLO:

While not quite "exemplary" because of formatting on the Works Cited page, this is an excellent example of research. The student explored communication through tattoos in cultural, historic, social and personal contexts.

Continue on next page.



Please briefly describe course work designed to prepare this student to demonstrate this CASLO:

Preparatory course work included an overview on time management for the assignment; a presentation by a research librarian; oral presentation of research topics and theses for peer review by classmates and the instructor; in-class discussion of relevant chapters in the textbook; and discussions of more creative applications of research, likening the process to a detective solving a mystery. The assignment was intended to not only acquaint students with research in the field and the latest means of accessing it, but also to demonstrate the cumulative effect of their language skills developed over the semester.

Reading the Ink in Our Skin

The art of tattooing has been around for thousands of years. Some of the first known tattoos came from the Polynesian islands, which are located within the triangle created by New Zealand, Hawaii, and the Easter Islands. The word tattoo derives from the Polynesian word “tatau”, meaning “to strike correctly.” After the introduction of Polynesian tattoos to the Western society by Captain James Cook, new styles of tattooing have arrived; the most common style is “western tribal” which is made up of thick black lines in makeshift forms. Unfortunately, many people believe that this style is similar to traditional Polynesian tattoos, yet Polynesian tattoos are more than just random sets of lines. Polynesian tattoos are composed of many different elements and symbols that each have their own meaning, and they tell stories about the owner and their lives.

Tattoos were used to show class, ranks, warrior and marital status, family history, and were thought to give the owner strength and other special powers in the Polynesian islands. When applying a tattoo, a tafuga “tattoo master,” would use a variety of tools, such as sharp stones, bamboo, sharpened bones, or toothed wooden hammers, to permanently engrave ink into the second layer of skin called the dermis. German anthropologist Augustin Kramer tells that the ink used was called lama, because it came from the lama nut, or candlenut (81). Tattooing started as early as puberty, and was common in both sexes. Tattooing was sometimes considered a rite of passage, showing their endurance of pain because the tattooing process could last up to several days. A common male tattoo was called the pe’a, which covered the body from the knees up to the naval. Females typically had tattoos around the chin and lips to attract males, as this was a sign of beauty (Encyclopedia). Of course, tattoos also ran across the rest of their bodies, each location having specific meanings.

Regardless of where in the Polynesian islands the tattoo derives from, there will almost always be a similarity in style and meaning, because the language of each island may differ slightly, but they are all related to one another through the ocean. Roberto Gemori, author of “The Polynesian Tattoo Handbook,” writes about how the Polynesians believed that the ocean gave and sustained life; the ocean is how they connected with other people, was where they left for their final voyage, and was a big source of their food (46). Tattoos were also a way of communicating with one’s aumakua, “an entity having supernatural powers, (usually a deified ancestor) which appears to men usually in the form of an animal, to give them advice, omens, and sometimes punishments” (7). These aumakua were similar to Native American’s totem animals. Aumakua in the form of animals were typically marine life, because of the Polynesians connection with the ocean. Polynesians would often tattoo a depiction of their aumakua on them to connect with them, while others thought this as kapu, “forbidden,” as it may bring bad omens upon them. An ancient Hawaiian legend tells of a woman swimming in the ocean who got bit by a shark. She screams out that the shark is her aumakua, so the shark lets go. The shark apologizes and tells her that he would never again bite her because he can identify her by the teeth marks around her ankle. Many Hawaiians had rows of shark teeth tattooed around their ankles for protection in the water (34-35).

Nowadays, tattoos are a way to display art, to depict the owner’s interests and important things in their life. Polynesian tattoos tell stories about their life. Many times tattoos were used to show family ancestry or marital status. In Maori culture, the ta moko, facial tattoos, personally identify one another. It had no set designs, so each ta moko was custom for each owner. That is why copying another’s tattoo was forbidden and inappropriate: copying someone’s tattoo is like stealing their identity and their history. It is not like today where one can go to a tattoo parlor and

pick a design out of a book. Hundreds of other people probably have the same tattoo. In Polynesian culture, it is uncustomary for two people to have the same markings.

Common symbols used in Polynesian tattoos are marine life, plants, human figures, and other natural elements. Many animals used relating to aumakua are those of sea creatures, such as sharks, turtles, sting rays, octopus, while other animals include lizards and a few birds, like the owl. Plants are great when representing family, marriage, and life; flowers are typically used to show beauty, and sometimes children. Some common flowers used in tattoos are hibiscus, tiare, and frangipani, or plumerias. Human figures are commonly used to represent family, and are called enata. Warrior figures and spearheads show strength and courage. Tikis are human-like figures that represent semi-gods, and act like aumakua for the Polynesian people. They are a sign of protection, watching over the one who wears it. The ipu, or hollowed out gourd used as both container and Hawaiian instrument, is used to show one's genealogy and ancestry; the ipu also used to symbolize birth and life, and when two ipu are paired together, it could also show marriage. The list of symbols goes on, and there are so many more that have been lost throughout the ages due to missionaries settling in Polynesian islands and tabooing tattoos as a sin (22-67).

Just as different symbols signify different areas of one's life, the placement of tattoo's on one's body inherent specific meanings. Gemori tells the legend of Rangi and Papa, Heaven and Earth respectively. Gemori writes about how it is man's quest to find the connection between the two, and how the body can potentially be a link between Rangi and Papa. The upper half of the body is related to Rangi, while the lower half is connected to Papa, similar to many other cultures. With this being said, tattoos placed on the head relates to one's spirituality and knowledge. The upper half of the torso above the navel relays generosity, honor, and reconciliation. This is placed between Rangi and Papa to form a balance between the two. The

lower half of the body from the thigh to the navel shows energy, life, and independence. Mana, or “life force,” is thought to be generated in the navel, as that is where life begins; this belief is true in many other cultures as well. The upper arms and shoulders relate to warriors and strength, while the lower arms and hands are for creation and creativity. The legs and feet represent moving forward, and being the closest contact with Papa, Mother Nature, they also show being concrete and grounded (14-18).

I myself have two Polynesian inspired tattoos, both designed by me. The first is an arm band on my right arm that details my family. In the center is a star, for my given Hawaiian name “Hokumalie,” meaning “silent star.” To the left is a heart with light shining out for my mother and her Hawaiian name “Makanalei,” meaning “gift from the heart.” Next to that is a hibiscus, a symbol of beauty, for my sister and her name “Nani,” which also means beauty. To the right of the star is a sun for my father “Kamana’o,” meaning “enlightenment.” Finally, next to my father is the lens of a camera snapping closed for my brother, who is a photographer by trade. Each of these symbols are in a spearhead to represent the strength of the bonds in my family. My parents are closest to me with my siblings on either side. The females are pointed towards my chest because they’re closest to my heart, while the males are pointed behind me because they will always have my back.

The second tattoo I have is a hybrid between Polynesian and Japanese tattoo styles. The tattoo is comprised of a tribal fish hook and koi fish rotating in such a fashion to resemble yin and yang, representing the balance in my life. In Japanese legends, the koi fish is known to be able to swim upstream against harsh currents; their struggle against the current has been used to represent conquering adversities. My koi fish swimming upwards has five fins along its back, to represent the five of my closest friends who have helped me overcome many adversities in my

life. The fish hook is composed of several Polynesian symbols to show how the five friends have helped me. Fish hooks are close to the Polynesian people just as the ocean is, and when an idea or thought is caught and held like fish, the hook is used to represent knowledge or a promise. At the top of the hook is a mo'o, or "lizard." Mo'o's were often deities to men, so they depict good luck, protection, and guidance. Below the mo'o is a centipede, which is known for its aggressiveness, so this shows determination and sometimes rebellion. Next to the centipede is a lauhala mat. Lauhala mats are significant in Polynesian culture, as these woven mats are typically family heirlooms and are passed down through the generations. Lauhala represents the strength in family bonds. Next to the lauhala is a row of ani ata. This goes back to the legend of Rangi and Papa. Gemori wrote that they "once laid closely embracing each other and their children lived between them in darkness until deified men forced them apart by pushing Rangi up to let the light in" (24). Ani ata translates to "cloudy sky." The ani ata represents the people in my life letting light into me and ridding me of darkness. Wrapping around the curve of the fish hook are rows of spearheads. Spearheads are commonly used to portray warriors and strength. Finally, along the point of the hook are seven fish, one each to represent the seven siblings I have on my mother's side of the family, as well as the seven on my father's side.

Both of these tattoos took several months to plan. The first began in February of 2012 and was completed in June of the same year. The second tattoo design began December of 2012, and wasn't complete until October of 2013. The long periods of time were due to the development and growth in my life that affected the meanings and portions of my life that I wanted to portray. These are one of a kind tattoos, because no one else has these, and because I designed them myself, and no one can take that from me.

Polynesian tattoos embody the owner's life, telling stories about who they are and how far they have come in life. With the tattooing process sometimes taking days at a time to complete, it is a rite of passage and a connection to their ancestors and to the gods. Western tribal tattoos have become an extremely popular style of tattooing, yet they have no relation with traditional Polynesian tattoos. Polynesian tattoos are one of a kind, specific to the owner's experiences, and almost like a personal identification. Already having two tattoos, I am already planning to get more and have started designing a third piece. However, this may take a few years to complete; tattoos are a depiction of one's life, and there is so much more to experience before this tattoo is finished.

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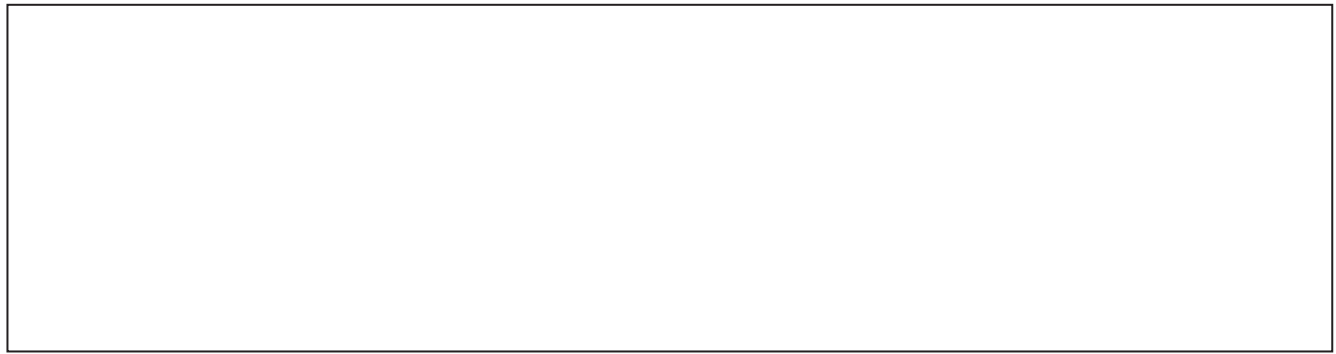
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Please briefly describe your assessment of the evidence; identify qualities in the student work that establish its level of achievement for the CASLO:

This student's work reflected fairly extensive researching, an adequate thesis and efforts at integrating research information into the body of the work. Its major problem came with its syntax and language mechanics, which are marginally up to the course's standards.

Continue on next page.



Please briefly describe course work designed to prepare this student to demonstrate this CASLO:

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Animal Rights: Beware of Pit bulls?

Today in America there are millions of dogs that are being abused and discriminated specifically, Pit bulls. Pit bulls have been so called vicious, dangerous, and killers. For this reason many argue that this breed should be banished. This is sadly and slowly coming into effect where they are being banned or else have to be muzzled in public in many areas in the USA. This is a major problem that needs to be avoided. The question is should we continue to watch the ban of many Pit bulls? No, we must fight for what's right and have people understand that Pit bulls are not a threat, are loyal, and very friendly. "Dogs are a man's best friend" and we should not neglect these animals the right to also have a loving owner. Pit bulls should not be banned because they have been victims of bias media portraying them as "bad dogs". They shouldn't be neglected adoption when to blame are the owners for not training them properly and from using them in dog fights. Pit bulls, they are like any other dog and therefore they should not be banned period.

Pit bulls have been victims of the media for they have made an image of pit bulls as huge scary dogs and people believe in the false accusations they make of these dogs. Media, they inform people of any news they can get and also may stretch the truth too much were it is exaggerated. When it's another breed attacking a person the media cares not at all. Well of course who wants to read about a little scrawny dog attacking a person? Those who have never owned a pit-bull simply believe these false facts that are being made. How can someone understand something they have never had? This proves that anti-pit bull bias in the media is more than just a theory it's a fact.

Many people think of pit bulls as the most dangerous dog however there are other dogs that are also known as an aggressive animal. According to statistics from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention other dogs that are also known as the top most dangerous are the Siberian Husky, German Shepherd, Great Dane, Doberman Pinscher, and the Chow Chow (PRWeb) .

However we don't see the strong effort to ban these dogs. Why? Instantly people think ban them, have them extinct. Any dog can be dangerous but with the proper training this can be handled.

As responsible fellow owners we must not make it any easier for us and simply eliminate pit bulls or any dog because of accidents that occur. According to Chris Davis, who serves as principal attorney and founder of the Davis Law Group, nearly 5 million Americans each year are bitten from a dog (PRWeb). We can't simply watch breeds of dogs become eliminated when we are to blame. It is our duty to have these statistics change by becoming better teachers to our dogs.

Help your dog become a calm friendly dog by detecting early signs such as them showing aggression by vocalizing, using facial or body language signs and biting. If you notice your pet acting different and aggressive seek a professional to train your dog from becoming aggressive. There are things you can do in order for your dog to be friendly such rewards, physical handling, exercising, play biting and simply show them who is boss. According to Dog Basics training your pet when they are puppies is the most important time to discipline them. If you show your dog that they will receive rewards after being obedient they will be encouraged to act in good behavior. Punishment for bad behavior should be avoided this can lead to increased fear, anxiety, and defensive behavior. Puppy training should always be positive and when their energetic want to play that is the opportunities to take them on runs. This will train them to listen to you and they will adapt and get use to joggers and cars. When you play show them what they can and cannot bite they will grow up to only bite their toys and not people. These little things will make a huge difference. They will learn obedience and they will see that you are their leader.

Although they may not show in the media all the positive things pit bulls do for our community they truly do play a positive role as well. Pit bulls service as therapy dogs, service dogs, and also known as heroes. Despite what anyone may say pit bulls have also done a good deed for people. "There are kids who absolutely light up when they see a dog..." said Patti Brauss, a 14-year veteran physical education teacher. At north Austin's Gullett Elementary School, a pit bull dog works as a therapy dog. Making the kids have an emotional connection with the pit bull. For they are also known for working as service dog, Kelly Yearwood is a trainer for pit bulls. Kelly not only teaches the dog's simple obedience, but also trains them to grab different objects, open doors, turn lights on and off and even punch elevator buttons. They are trained to assist people with stabilities from any age. Pit bulls are heroic animals on BSL news they have a hall of heroes for pit bulls and have over 40-50 stories on how they were true heroes. One outstanding story was on a pit bull saved the neighbors of a house fire. Abby the dog usually known as a quite dog saw the fire and barked loud like never before and the neighbors unaware of the fire were then rescued thanks to the pit bull dog.

Many argue that this breed is dangerous and should be banished. But do Pit bulls really have "Bad" genetics or is the owner to blame for the breed's aggression? The majority of American pet owners believe a well-trained dog is safe. According to Associated Press-Petside.com poll, 71% said any breed can be safe if the dogs are well trained. The owner is the problem for trying to make the dog into a fighter. Dogs in general are loyal and do as the owner trains them to do they are quit intelligent. If they grow up with love, a lot of socializing with people and dogs they will not have that instinct to be an aggressive dog. The breed's history and stature have made the "pit bull" to seem intimidating. Dog fighting was one of the many dog

sports, of the nineteenth century a so called bull baiting. They were trained to harass the bulls till one or both collapsed this game lasted many years till it was illegal in England. Then they found new games to amuse themselves they would throw rats and pit bulls in an area and see how fast the pit bull would kill the rats. This sport also soon became illegal and although dog fighting is also illegal this is still continuing to go on. These people are the ones that for their own interest have converted pit bulls into aggressive animals.

Nobody wants there dog to be called a monster or have someone say they need to be put down. As owners of pit bulls or many other dogs it is our responsibility to take action to reduce the way people view Pit bulls as “aggressive dogs”. Therefore we must take proactive steps to keep the breed from being seen as an aggressive dog. That is called for neutering our dog so they may look and act less aggressive. As owners sometimes it’s not easy making a decision of our dog to be neutered because of myths that our dog will become depressed and loss a part of them. According to Cesar Millians a dog expert, “A dog’s basic personality is formed more by environment and genetics than by sex hormones, so sterilization will not change your dog’s basic personality, make your dog sluggish or affect its natural instinct to protect the pack.” The dogs will not loss its personality they will simply be more behaved. According to Jessica Garcia, she strongly believes that sometimes it’s definitely hard for her to be harsh on her pit bull, but its for the better of her dog, she says that there can only be one boss and that would be her you cannot let your dog manipulate you because then they wont listen to you.

As owners we should also socialize our pets with people and the world. Rachel Friedman: “Most problems dogs have behaviorally have to do with poor early socialization and/or neglect, inconsistent or unrealistic expectations, improper care or handling of the dog, anthropomorphizing of the dog by the owner suggesting a communication gap, and a reactive

mode of humans to what is the dog perfectly fine behavior". Because of early abuse or simply from not being social your dog can grow up and develop mental disorders. As a human being dogs can also receive traumas and disease that are caused because of past bad experiences. Not only do dogs need to be loved but also socialized with kids, dogs, and people. Only then will they grow up to be friendly and prevent any physiological problems and aggression. Don't leave your dog in 7 feet tall cage all day and night take them out imagine the damage you are doing for them mentally. Psychological problems they get from being trapped in a four walled cage it can drive anyone nuts. Its best to put yourself in their place just think if you were them would that be something you would want to do be in a cage all day and do absolutely nothing. We must be good owners and take our dogs out.

Pit bulls are like many other dogs they are smart, friendly, and loving. As any other dog they can attack because of an instinct or they could be completely harmless and not hurt a fly. It is sad to see these poor animals being taught aggressive manners from their owners and receiving all the blame. Dogs should be judged individually not on its breed. Every single dog can act in a different way for many reasons.

Animal cruelty it's a sad fact to accept especially when it comes to finding animals abandoned or dead in the streets. Just the thought of someone harming an animal is unacceptable. Most of all its hard to deal with animal cruelty when there aren't much you can do. Any animal lover would protect harmed dogs if they could. But the problem is people who make Pit bulls fight then when they lose or are no good they throw them out. Pit bulls are unconditionally loyal and will do anything to satisfy its owner and when they are thrown out and brutally beat they sense the feeling of no longer being loved.

Despite what you might think or have heard Pit bulls are great dogs to have around children and families. They are an amazing breed that can not only be a great pet but also provide protection to your home. Although Pit bulls may continue to be abused, prevention can be done to change the animal world. Pit bulls are not monsters.

In conclusion, this is an important issue where pit bulls are being neglect a loving home being abused and discriminated. People need to understand that to blame is the media and the owners because pit bulls are like any other dog. They should not ban pit bulls for there are other dangerous dogs that have attacked people as well. Banning Pit bulls will only increase the amount of pit bulls with no home, no love, and no affection. Some people need to understand that a pit is a friendly pet and need to make the right decision to allow them to stay in our community. The banning and discrimination on pit bulls needs to stop!

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