What skills are you gaining?

Here are some of the specific abilities that your humanities major may be teaching you. Use this list to identify the particular strengths that you are developing and to better articulate your skills.

Critical Thinking/Problem Solving

- ❑ Defining and reframing problems
- ❑ Recognizing the gaps in the information one has
- ❑ Knowing how to fill relevant gaps in one's information
- ❑ Moving forward within conditions of uncertainty or ambiguity
- ❑ Drawing reasonable inferences from limited information
- ❑ Distinguishing valid and relevant sources of information from spurious ones
- ❑ Making rational decisions in the absence of complete information
- ❑ Identifying the key points in a mass of information
- ❑ Seeking out alternative and even conflicting interpretations of data
- ❑ Anticipating objections, seeking out weak points
- ❑ Recognizing the facts that will support a claim
- ❑ Distinguishing the separate threads of a complex argument
- ❑ Recognizing, articulating, and challenging unspoken assumptions
- ❑ Recognizing, articulating, and challenging artificial barriers
- ❑ Recognizing, articulating, and challenging logical fallacies
- ❑ Simultaneously exploring multiple, even conflicting, solutions
- ❑ Differentiating between contradictions that lead to incoherence and contradictions that reflect an imperfect world
- ❑ Applying standards of creative and aesthetic, as well as intellectual, rigor.
- ❑ Coping creatively with new realities, suboptimal resources, or uncertain prospects

Oral/Written Communication

- ❑ Getting information
- ❑ Supporting a claim with evidence
- ❑ Observing what isn't said, as well as what is
- ❑ Getting inside an alien viewpoint and understanding its internal logic
- ❑ Accurately and sympathetically explaining views that you don't personally share
- ❑ Translating between conflicting stakeholders
- ❑ Synthesizing multiple interpretations

- ❑ Dividing large quantities of information into digestible pieces.
- ❑ Simplifying complex information without distorting it
- ❑ Persuading people to take a course of action
- ❑ Advancing towards a goal in the absence of consensus
- ❑ Turning raw facts into narrative
- ❑ Documenting
- ❑ Verifying and fact-checking
- ❑ Distinguishing the details that matter from those that don't
- ❑ Recognizing the different needs and expectations of different audiences
- ❑ Modulating tone

Global/Intercultural Fluency

- ❑ Acknowledging and eliminating one's own cultural blind spots
- ❑ Understanding and recognizing intersectionality
- ❑ Acknowledging the complex causes of cultural difference, including colonialism, structural racism and sexism, and economics
- ❑ Having strategies for filling gaps in one's cultural knowledge
- ❑ Determining valid and credible sources for cultural knowledge
- ❑ Understanding the political subtexts in terms like "diversity," "inclusivity," "sensitivity," "accommodation," and "difference"
- ❑ Seeking out ways to expand one's cultural knowledge
- ❑ Decentering one's own experience
- ❑ Recognizing the limits of empathetic interpersonal solutions to cultural problems
- ❑ Recognizing the limits of procedural or institutional solutions to cultural problems
- ❑ Recognizing the limits of one's **Critical Thinking/Problem Solving** for resolving situations involving cultural conflict.
- ❑ Recognizing the limits of one's **Oral and Written Communication** toolkit for overcoming language barriers, cultural differences, and systemic inequality.
- ❑ Being able to function in more than one language
- ❑ Knowing when and why code-switching is appropriate and being able to do it.