Digital Humanities Student Feedback Quantified
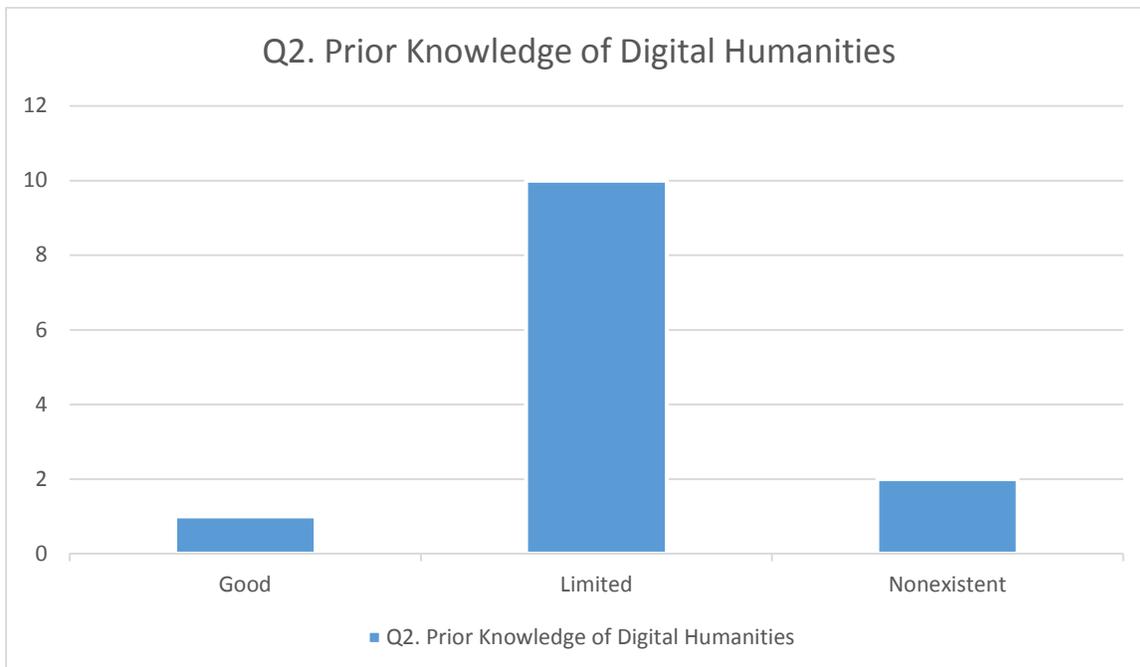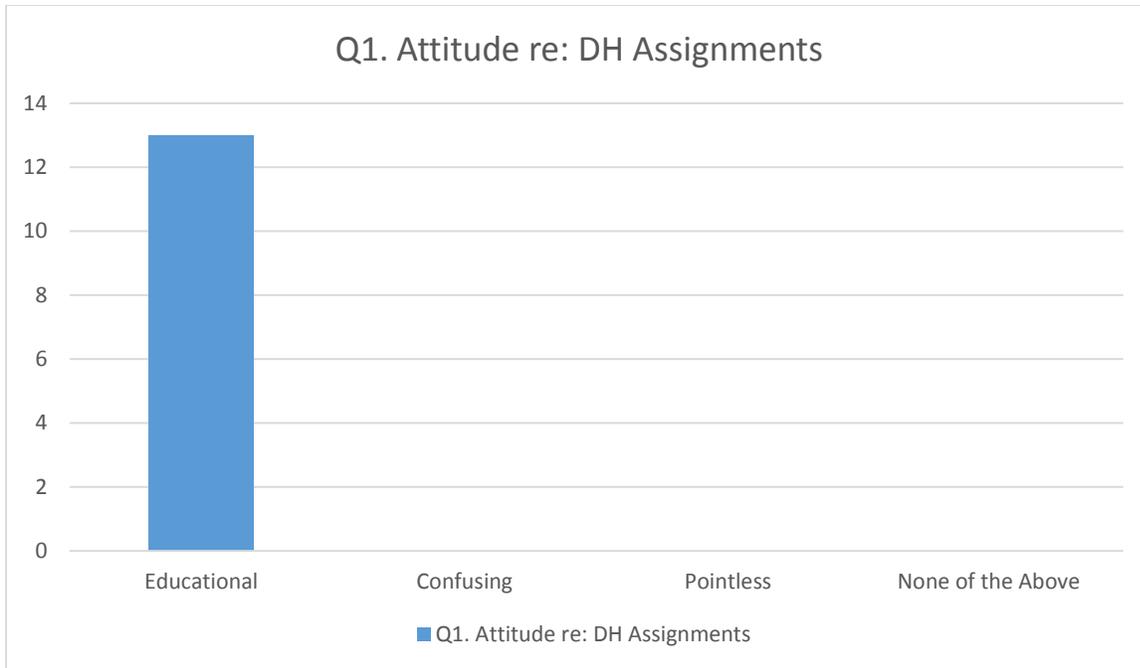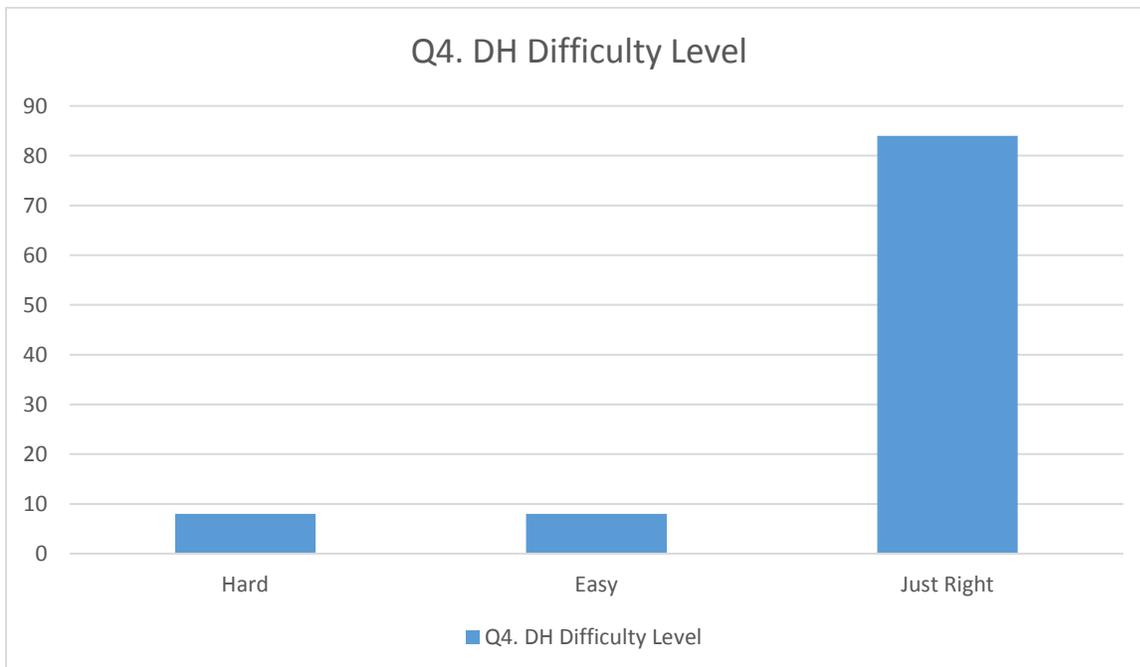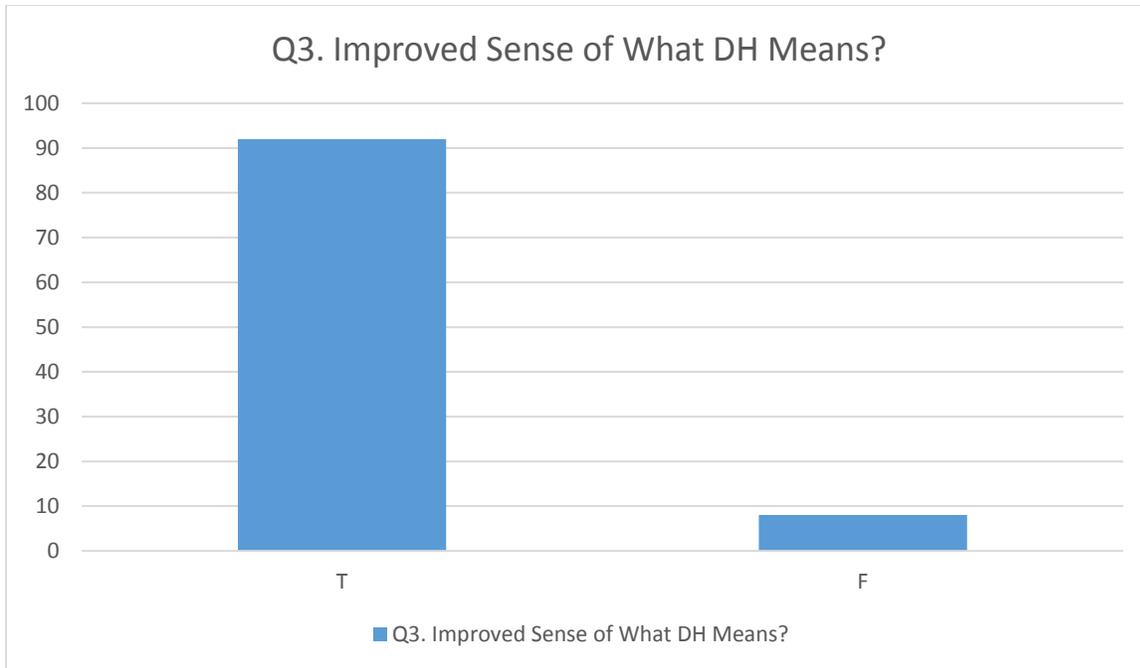
History 476

Survey Participation: 13/13

1. Overall, I found completing the digital humanities assignments to be:
    a. Educational: 13/13 = 100%
    b. Confusing: 0/13 = 0%
    c. Pointless: 0/13 = 0%
    d. None of the Above: 0/13 = 0%
2. Before the digital humanities assignments, my sense of the digital humanities was:
    a. Quite Good, Actually: 1/13 = 8%
    b. Limited & Incomplete: 10/13 = 77%
    c. Non-Existent: 2/13 = 15%
3. These assignments improved my grasp of what "digital humanities" means:
    a. True: 12/13 = 92%
    b. False: 1/13 = 8%
4. The difficulty-level of the digital humanities assignments was:
    a. Too Hard: 1/13 = 8%
    b. Too Easy: 1/13 = 8%
    c. Just Right: 11/13 = 84%
5. If these kinds of assignments required deeper engagement with digital resources, that would:
    a. Be More Fun: 4/13 = 31%
    b. Be Too Burdensome: 4/13 = 31%
    c. Not Change Anything: 5/13 = 38%
6. What is your attitude about the idea of the "digital humanities" generally?
    a. It Was a Refreshing Change: 8/13 = 62%
    b. It Sounded Easier But I Didn't Really Get Much Out of It: 2/13 = 15%
    c. I Would Prefer to Just Write a One-Page Reading Response: 3/13 = 23%
7. Which digital humanities assignment did you find most useful?
    a. Podcast Review: 8.5/13 = 65%
    b. App Reflection: 4.5/13 = 35%
    c. Neither Were Useful: 0/13 = 0%
8. How did listening to a podcast episode compare to an in-class lecture on the same material?
    a. Listening to a Podcast is Preferable: 1/13 = 8%
    b. Listening to an In-Class Lecture is Preferable: 4.5/13 = 35%
    c. Both Are About Equally Effective: 7.5/13 = 57%
9. What did access to the *Confessions* app change about your approach to the text itself?
    a. The App's Resources Helped Me Understand Augustine Better: 10/13 = 77%
    b. App Was Cool But Didn't Help Me Understand Augustine Better: 3/13 = 23%
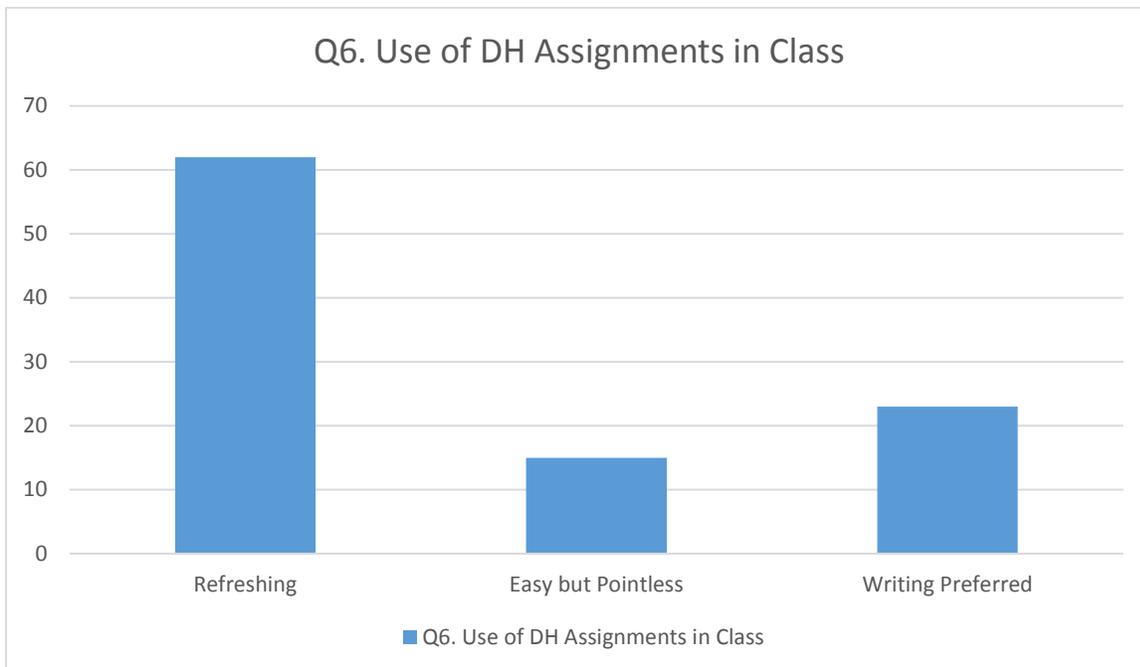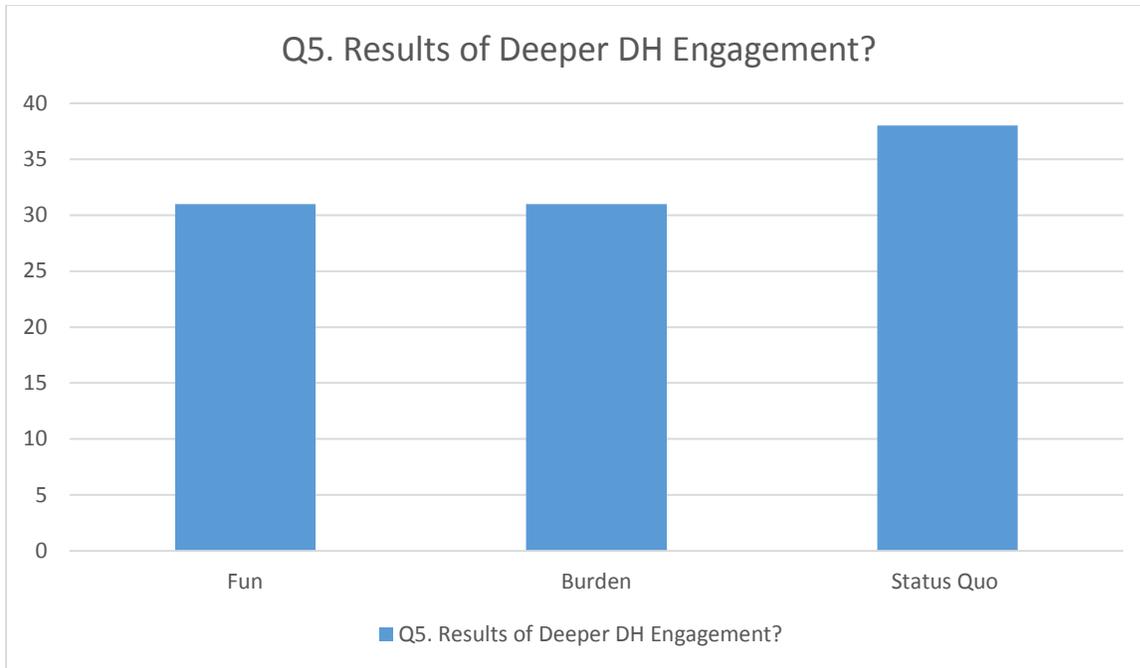   c. The App In No Way Aided My Understanding of Augustine: 0/13 = 0%

10. If you could pass any advice on to Dr. Peter Adamson, proprietor of the *History of Philosophy* podcast, what would it be?
    - "If possible. I would love to get an outline or actual script of his podcast, since I usually have to listen to the podcast multiple times (which is a good thing). But I still hope there is something I can actually read."
    - "Make his voice less soothing."
    - "I enjoyed the emphasis on the history aspect, but there wasn't quite as much info on the actual philosophy I was trying to focus on."
    - "Make it more user-friendly to find subjects. Have a stronger search engine."
    - "I found the podcast to be very enlightening. Having some more in-depth discussions and info would be great!"
    - "Keep doing what you're doing! I loved it."
    - "Keep doing what you're doing. I found the podcast to be both interesting and useful."
    - "Make them longer, since some sections seem too oriented toward surveying topics that merit more depth."
    - "Subtitles, please! Sometimes I cannot hear the words clearly, especially during the interview episodes."

11. If you could pass any advice on to the team at Villanova University that made the *Confessions* app, what would it be?
    - "It helped my understanding of the text, but the app needs a little work."
    - "Break up the long book audio clip segments."
    - "Emphasize external sources less."
    - "Involve more reflections and commentaries (possibly longer ones)."
    - "The commentaries in the app gave me just a taste, but not enough."
    - "I found the app to be very useful and didn't have many problems with it."
    - "As somebody not entirely familiar with sections of the Bible, abbreviated citations were initially confusing."
    - "I learned to make a pretty good cake from it!"
    - "The app is well made and helped me quite a bit. I would suggest having discussion boards where app users can have discussions with the app creators."
    - "Work out the small bugs to make the whole process smoother."
    - "Great job! Thank you for the hard work. My only advice has to do with the audio format. A different interface might be easier. Other than that, it's fantastic."
    - "The app was useful, but also expensive. It needs work."
    - "The difference between our translation [Hammond] and the app's translation was too big. I understand why, but it made it hard to use in conjunction with our text."
    - "There should be a better way of finding quotes."
    - "Keep doing what you're doing. I found the app to be very helpful."
    - "Reformatting the footnotes would be appreciated, as would an index, specifically for the interpretive articles."
    - "Make it easier to search for keywords while reading through the chapters."
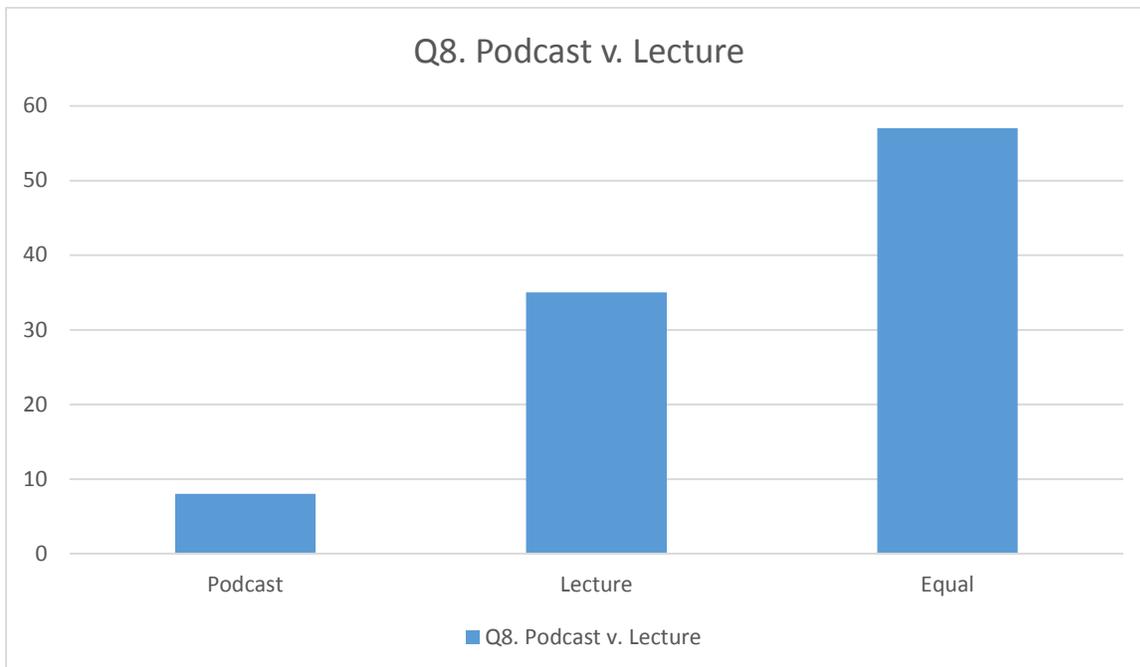
12. Do you have any ideas about other digital resources that you'd like to use when completing assignments in a Humanities context?
    - "Visual clips."
    - "No, but I do think it's a good idea to do assignments like this. It was very interesting to work with podcasts."
    - "More podcasts would be helpful, not as an assignment but as an 'extra' for topics in class."
    - "I personally use YouTube when I don't understand a concept (in all of my courses). This may be useful to other students if credible videos are available."
    - "I would like the addition of more audio books."
    - "Creating a podcast or other digital project such as a wiki or website would be fun."
    - "Video resources would be cool."
    - "Perhaps some form of video content or supplementary lecture material from other speakers or authorities or YouTube or online lectures."

Q1. Attitude re: DH Assignments

Q2. Prior Knowledge of Digital Humanities

Q3. Improved Sense of What DH Means?

Q4. DH Difficulty Level

Q5. Results of Deeper DH Engagement?

Q5. Results of Deeper DH Engagement?

Q6. Use of DH Assignments in Class

Q6. Use of DH Assignments in Class

Q7. Most Useful Assignment

Q8. Podcast v. Lecture

Q9. App Aided Understanding of Augustine?

■ Q9. App Aided Understanding of Augustine?

History 101

Survey Participation: 22/40

1. Overall, I found completing the digital assignments to be:
   a. **Educational: 22/22 = 100%**
   b. Confusing: 0/0 = 0%
   c. Pointless: 0/0 = 0%
   d. None of the Above: 0/0 = 0%
2. Before the digital assignments, my sense of the digital humanities was:
   a. Quite Good, Actually: 5/22 = 23%
   b. **Limited & Incomplete: 8/22 = 36%**
   c. Non-Existent: 9/22 = 41%
3. These assignments improved my grasp of what "digital humanities" means:
   a. **True: 22/22 = 100%**
   b. False: 0/22 = 0%
4. The difficulty-level of the digital humanities assignments was:
   a. Too Hard: 0/22 = 0%
   b. Too Easy: 8/22 = 36%
   c. **Just Right: 14/22 = 64%**
5. If these kinds of assignments required deeper engagement with digital resources, that would:
   a. **Be More Fun: 12/22 = 54%**
   b. Be Too Burdensome: 5/22 = 23%
   c. Not Change Anything: 5/22 = 23%
6. What is your attitude about the idea of "digital assignments" generally?
   a. **It Was a Refreshing Change: 19.5/22 = 88%**
   b. It Sounded Easier But I Didn't Really Get Much Out of It: 1.5/22 = 7%
   c. I Would Prefer to Just Write a One-Page Reading Response: 1/22 = 5%
7. Which digital assignment did you find most useful?
   a. Digital Mapping (DA #1): 4.5/22 = 20%
   b. **Timeline Creation (DA #2): 15.5/22 = 71%**
   c. Textual Analysis (DA #3): 2/22= 9%
   d. None Were Useful: 0/0 = 0%
8. What other comments do you have concerning the digital assignments in this course?
   (Please write your response below.)

   - "No a million times over to short written assignments!"
   - "Timeline creation was most useful, followed by digital mapping and then textual analysis."
   - "DH does make history a little more engaging."
   - "It would be interesting to see other types of digital assignments, as well."
   - "Some assignments were a bit confusing, but after a bit of time it was fine."
   - "I think DH helps us to understand history much more easily."
   - "I think it would be helpful to have a little more direction in where to find historical sources."
   - "I enjoyed the assignments. However, it would be nice to have one written assignment. It would help with greater understanding."

- "I just really enjoyed the textual analysis! It was interesting. ☺"
- "It was interesting in the sense that it enlightened me to a subsection of history I have not heard about before. However, the assignments were very easy, specifically the textual analysis. The map and timeline were good."
- "The digital assignments were educational to a certain extent."
- "I do like reading responses as a way to explore the material. However, the digital assignments were very beneficial and enjoyable. I use mapping and timelines a lot for studying, so this really helps me expand my toolbox."
- "The mapping and timeline assignments were helpful for understanding how the things we were studying related to each other. The textual analysis assignment seemed less helpful for that purpose, and it didn't seem to relate."
- "The timeline and mapping assignments helped cement my knowledge of the material. However, the textual analysis really didn't help with my understanding even though it was interesting."
- "I felt that if the assignments were a little more comprehensive I would've enjoyed them more. Since I thought they were super-easy, I sort of blew them off and then did the bare minimum at the end. I would've liked it to be harder. I loved them though!"
- "I loved the mixture of assignments in this class. They did seem a bit easy or a lot of it was plug and play. But it was nice not having to write sixteen billion papers for this class."
- "Thanks for teaching this class! You made it fun and enjoyable. Keep up the good work."
- "I think you should drop Voyant [textual analysis tool], because it is not educational and doesn't improve understanding of the course material."
- "I thought the digital assignments were interesting. I enjoyed them and I did learn some things. They helped me remember things about historical events and places."
- "The mapping and timeline assignments were useful. They put things into perspective. I didn't get much out of the textual analysis assignment."
- "I think the mapping and timeline assignments were very helpful for the course. They helped me study and visualize. The textual analysis assignment, meanwhile, didn't do much to increase knowledge of the course. It was interesting to do, just did not have the educational aspect that the mapping and timeline assignments did."
- "I would have liked to do maybe one or two more different ones for a little more engagement."

Q1. Attitude re: DH Assignments

Chart showing values for Educational (100), Confusing (0), Pointless (0), None of the Above (0). Y-axis from 0 to 120.

Legend: ■ Q1. Attitude re: DH Assignments

Q2. Prior Knowledge of DH

Chart showing values for Good (23), Limited (36), Nonexistent (41). Y-axis from 0 to 45.

Legend: ■ Q2. Prior Knowledge of DH

Q3. Improved Sense of What DH Means?

Q4. DH Difficulty Level

Q5. Results of Deeper DH Engagement?

Categories: Fun, Burden, Status Quo

Legend: ■ Q5. Results of Deeper DH Engagement?

Q6. Use of DH Assignments in Class

Categories: Refreshing, Easy but Pointless, Writing Preferred

Legend: ■ Q6. Use of DH Assignments in Class

Q7. Most Useful Assignment