



RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Navigating Change: Addressing Student Learning Literacies at Rhodes University

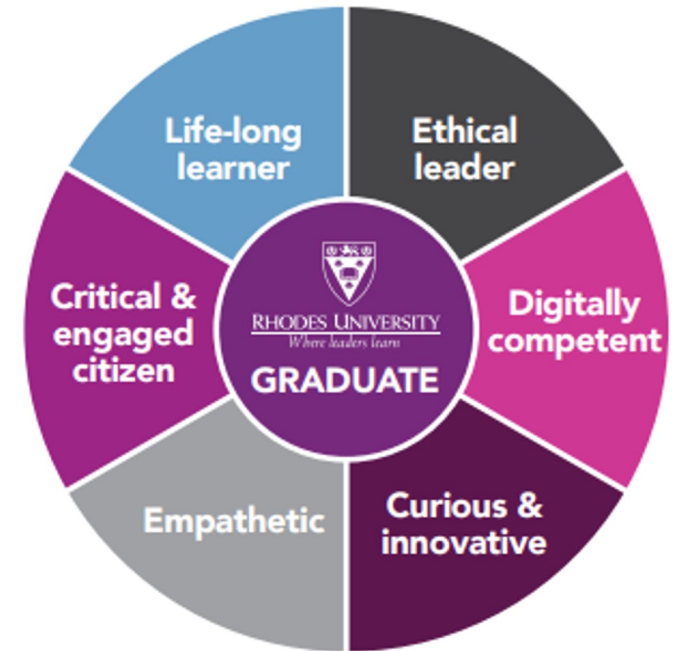
**Karen Ellery
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RU 120 
1904-2024 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

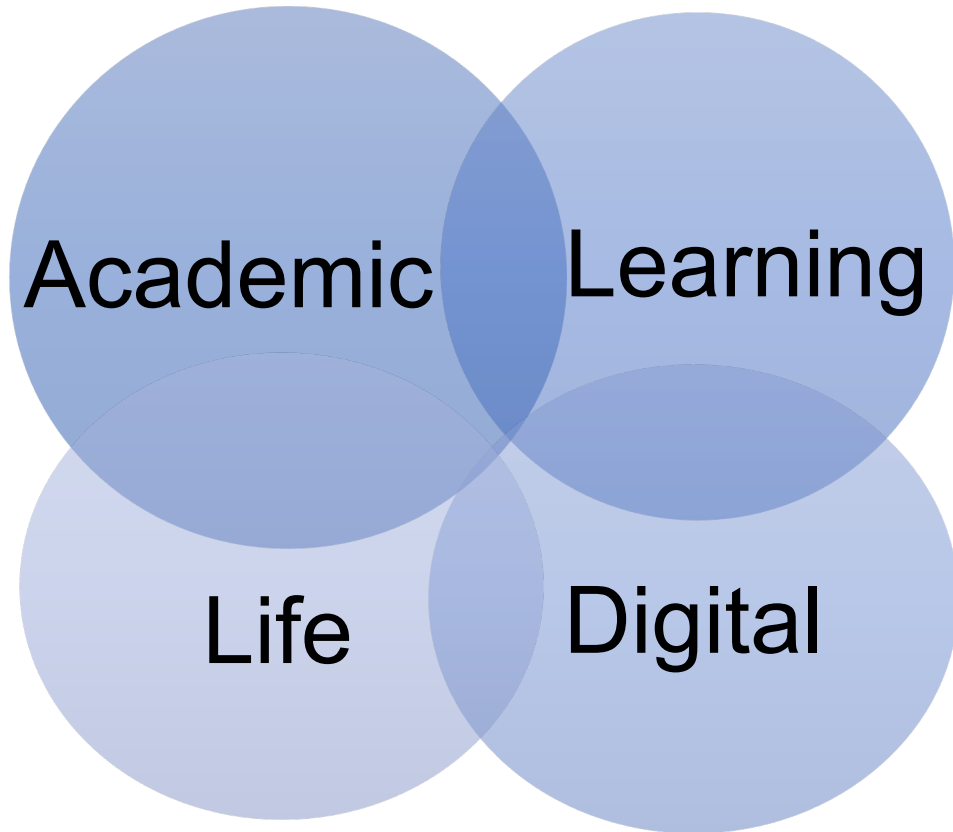
Meeting Our Students Where They Are

- Universities play an important role in nation-building – understanding the student as a whole person, considering their way of being in the world
- Recognised that we were not fully meeting the needs of our current student body – reflecting on our assumptions
- Staff and student surveys highlighted a need for enhanced support across all facets of academic life
- We address this through what we refer to as a Literacies approach

Literacies Approach: Literacies are social practices that embrace ways of knowing, doing, being and valuing in a certain social context



Four Literacies of Concern



Academic Literacies: Rooted in disciplinary practices, encompassing skills such as reading, writing, and numeracy, shaped by distinct disciplinary discourses.

Learning Literacies: Fostering effective university students who are independent, self-reflective, and agential.

Digital Literacies: Empowering students to navigate, comprehend, evaluate, and communicate information proficiently through digital technologies.

Life Literacies: Encompassing social, cultural, and physical well-being, crucial for holistic student development.

Learning Literacies

A

Agency

E

Engaged

I

Independent

O

Organised

U

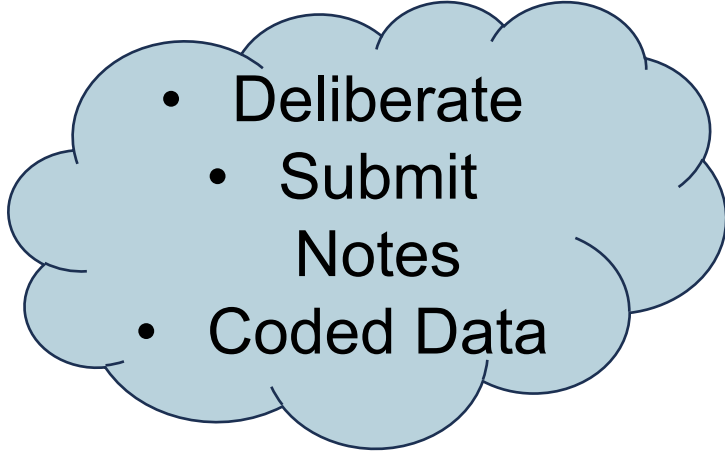
Understand



Science Learning Literacies Workshop: Week 1

What to do in lectures

- Active and engaged
- Understand
- Agency
- Note-taking
- Mock lecture

- 
- Deliberate
 - Submit Notes
 - Coded Data

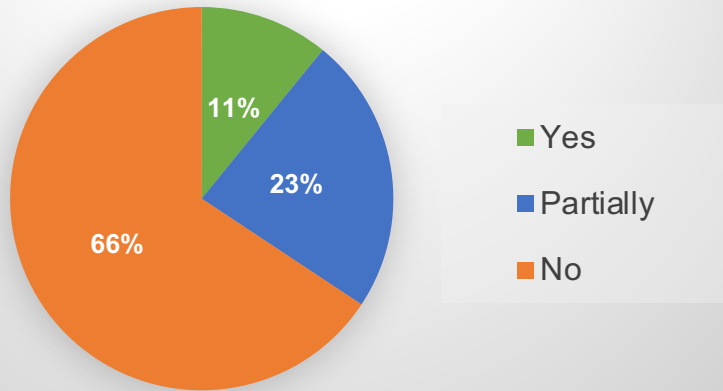
What to do outside of lectures

- Revise/consolidate
- Big picture
- Time management

Plenary and small groups

Student notes (n=237)

Summaries



Follow-up activities

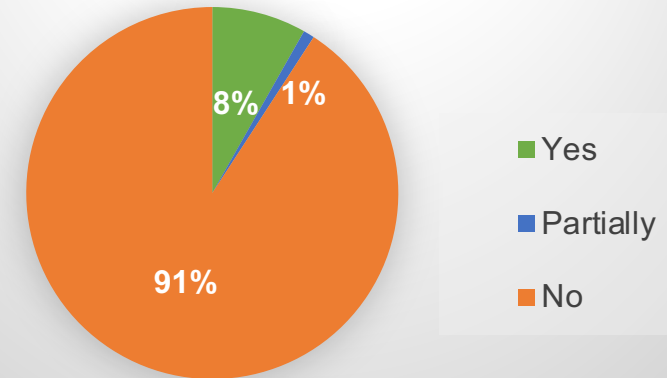


Table (little time)

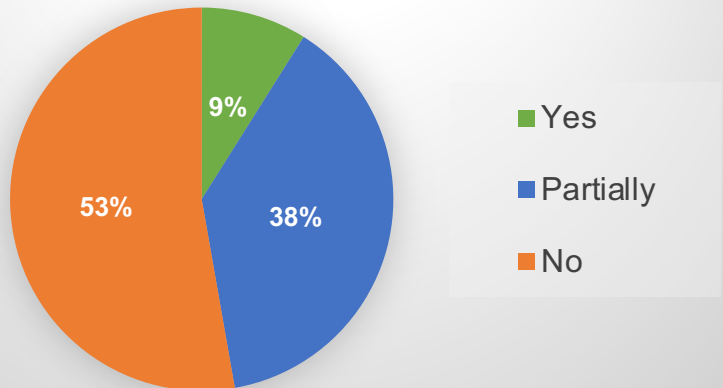
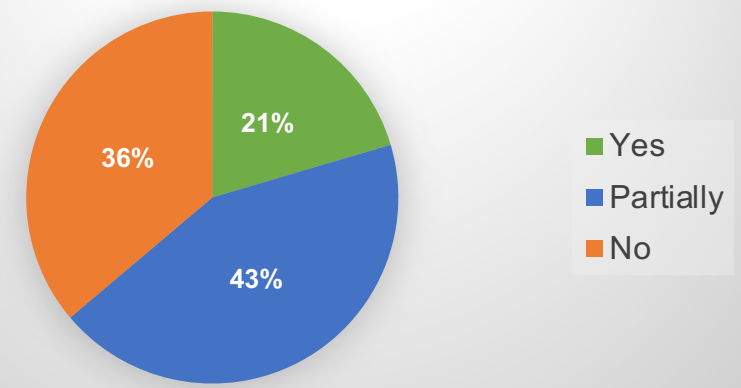
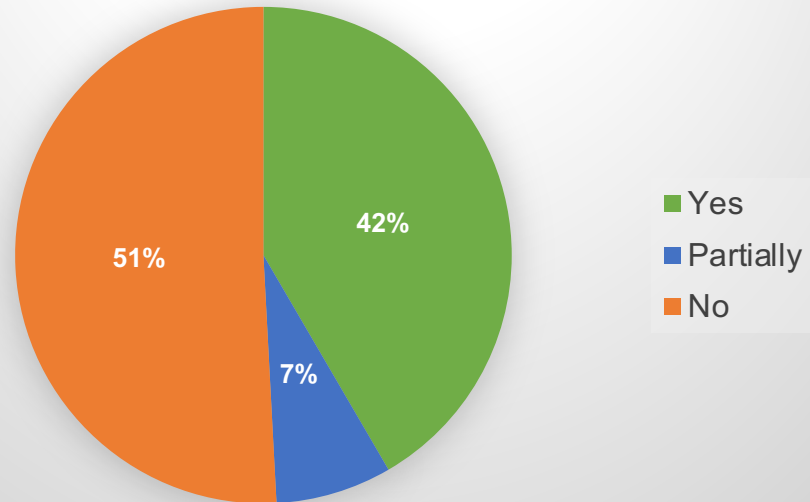


Table (plenty time)

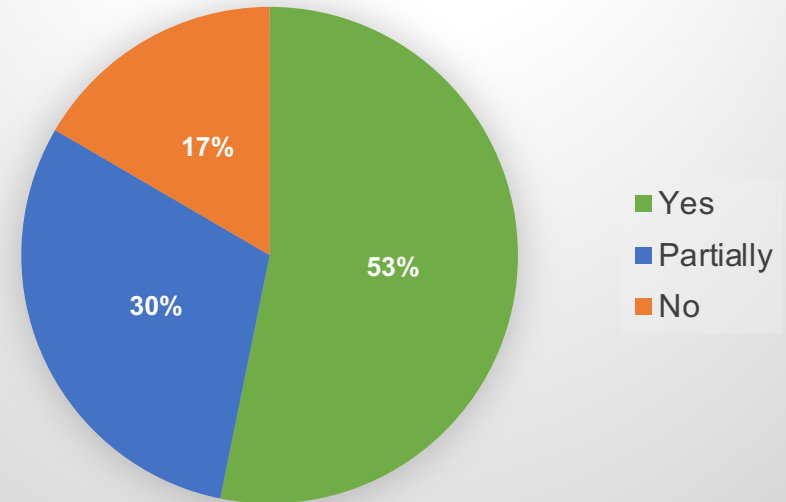


Student notes (n=237)

Verbal only (emphasised)



Write on board (calculate)



Student Voices (n=27)

Challenges

- Listen and write
- Pace
- Identify important

Suggestions

- Slow down
- Highlight important aspects
- Write in class (not powerpoint)
- Stay on topic
- Explain not read
- Engage with us!
- Do activities!



Take Home Message

- Know students
 - Explicit and support?
 - Alternative to taking notes?
- Once-off intervention insufficient
 - Learning is a process
 - Bring into the classroom
 - Toolkits
- Respond to research



THANK YOU

