Linking Passions to Major Choice: Strategies for Advising Humanities Majors

Garton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Whether it is parents, friends, or the media, students are frequently bombarded with negative impressions of the various humanities disciplines (and many are encouraged to shy away from them altogether). But when they finally take the plunge and officially declare that major in English, philosophy, classics, etc., they find themselves on the defensive and constantly being asked, "What are you going to do with that?" We as advisors may not necessarily be able to change societal views, but we can make a lasting impact on the lives of individual students. This presentation will cover the commonly cited strengths and weaknesses of humanities majors and provide practical, hands-on activities and resources to use with this unique population of students.