

Annotated Bibliography

Assignment: provide your audience (your professor and your classmates) with a working thesis statement and an assessment of the sources you have found.¹ The purpose of this assignment is to summarize what scholarship you have read and to begin thinking about how you can use that scholarship in your argument. A successful annotated bibliography will demonstrate both your familiarity with your sources and your ability to put sources in conversation with one another.

Content: you must write about a minimum of **six** sources. At least **four** of these sources (but preferably all of them) must be from either scholarly books or academic journals. If you cannot find many scholarly sources for your project, be sure to explain why in Part III of this assignment.

Complete the following four parts:

Part I: Thesis

Begin your annotated bibliography by writing a preliminary thesis. Although the thesis statement you provide at this point does not have to be exactly the same one that you will use in your research essay, it should be focused enough so that you would be proud to use it in your final essay. This means that your preliminary thesis statement should be 1-4 sentences and should give your readers a precise sense of what you intend to argue about your cultural topic.

Part II: Bibliographic Entries, Summaries, and Evaluations

Write MLA and APA bibliographic entries for each of your six secondary sources and summarize and evaluate those sources. You must arrange your bibliography in alphabetical order, as determined by the authors' last names. All entries must include the following three elements:

1. **The full MLA bibliographic entry for the source.**
2. **The full APA bibliographic entry for the source.**
3. **A summary and evaluation of the source.** This must be at least one formally written, fully developed paragraph. Begin the paragraph one line below your citation; indent the first sentence of the paragraph. Summarize the major points of each source, focusing on those elements that relate to your thesis. Following your summaries, evaluate the source. Will it help you prove your thesis (some sources may not)? Discuss what aspect of the source will be most useful to you in your argument and why. What parts do you plan to use? Where do you plan to use them in your argument? Conclude your paragraph by discussing how this source compares and contrasts with your other sources. Do they complement one another? Reach different conclusions?

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¹ This assignment does not necessarily have to represent all the sources you will use in your research essay. Thus, feel free to use additional sources when you draft your research essay, or to not use some of the sources you discuss here.

Part III: Research Assessment

After your bibliography entries, write one fully developed paragraph in which you assess the current state of your research. Consider the following: what questions do you still have about your topic? Has anything in your research surprised you? Are there any kinds of sources you really want to find or still hope to find? Do you feel there are any gaps in your research?

Part IV: Libraries, Databases, and Search Terms

On a separate line underneath your Part III paragraph, list all the libraries and databases in Galileo you used in your research (do not list Galileo as a database; you use Galileo to find databases). Then, write down all the search terms that you used to find your sources.

Format requirements:

- Minimum length: each annotated entry must be a full, well-developed paragraph of at least six to seven sentences.
- **Single-space** each entry, with a double-space between each entry.
- Format: typed, single-spaced, with 1" margins, 12 pt. Times font, left justified.
- Bibliographic entries page must follow MLA and APA style.
- Include the following in the upper right hand side of the first page: your name; a title for your project; the number of words in your essay; the name, number, section and time of your class; and your professor's name.
- Number each page, centering the page number at the bottom of the page.
- Proofread carefully. Use your spell check function on your word processor.

You must upload an MS Word file containing a properly formatted draft of your essay to this assignment's folder in turnitin.com to receive a grade. Your essay will be graded and commented on in turnitin.com.