

Annotated Bibliography

Draft* due 2/26; final draft due 3/9

The next step towards your research paper is the annotated bibliography, in which you will analyze **10 sources** (your research paper will ultimately require more than 10). The annotated bibliography will help you get started on the research paper by helping you to evaluate the credibility and accuracy of your sources, the connections between and amongst sources, and their usefulness for your topic. Your goal is to establish ethos and logos through a familiarity with your topic and a **variety of viewpoints** on the issue.

Ask these kind of critical questions of your sources:

What is the author's purpose? Agenda? Does the author/source take a particular viewpoint? Is it limited/logical/biased/politically motivated? Does the author use sufficient data to support his/her argument? Whom is the intended audience? What are the author's credentials? Is he/she credible? You also need to think about how the sources relate to one another. Putting the sources in dialogue with each other will help you make the transition to the synthesis paper. How does each source add to what you have read, and how does it differ from/compare to the other works?

Format

These 10 sources must be from the last 10 years, though the majority of them should ideally be as recent as possible (i.e. the last 5 years). Remember that scientific sources tend to date quickly; if you do not have the latest sources, your credibility as a writer will suffer. You will need to list the sources alphabetically according to the method of citation used in your field (MLA or APA). **It is your responsibility to look this up in the *Penguin Handbook* and to use the proper format.** It will help to look at the bibliographies of your scholarly articles to see what method of citation they use. Beneath each listing, you should include a paragraph (approximately 150 words) explaining your evaluation of the source. Please double-space.

You must do **all** of the following steps in each annotation:

1. Summarize the source's thesis
2. Analyze the source's credibility
3. Relate each source to the other sources. (What do they have in common? How do they differ?)
4. Explain each source's usefulness to your topic/tentative thesis

Kinds/Types of Sources

The sources should primarily be comprised of serious, scholarly articles. You may have a maximum of two websites, but they must be authoritative and credible (e.g. The American Heart Association if you are researching heart disease or the FDA if you are doing drug research; think .gov and .org, not .com). In addition, you may have a maximum of two popular periodicals or trade sources (e.g. the *New York Times*). The popular sources still need to be quality popular sources (the *NY Times* is a much better newspaper than *USA Today*). **The remaining six sources must be from scholarly journals** (think ASP or OMNI file) or books, with a maximum of two books. Journal articles contain more up-to-date research than books, particularly in the sciences and social sciences.

* If you have a legitimate, verifiable reason relating to your topic that prevents you from finding sources in these categories (i.e. as a communications major, you are analyzing popular media), please contact me so I can approve your sources and approach. One of the goals of this assignment is to make sure that you can find sufficient quality sources for your topic before you get to the writing stage. If you do not have my okay in advance, you will be held to this criteria.

Grading

An “A” indicates excellence: All 10 sources all meet the criteria as to dates and types and are clearly relevant to the topic. You select a variety of quality sources with a range of differing viewpoints, and they are written at a serious, sustained level of engagement with the topic. You identify the authors of your sources, and their credentials are appropriate. **You clearly summarize the main idea of each source, analyze it for relevance and usefulness, make an explicit connection to your topic, and relate it to the other sources.** Also, you must use the proper citation method for your topic/field with the proper format. Finally, your paragraphs must have a clear topic sentence; use specific language; use transitions to indicate connections between and among ideas; have a direct, active, and varied sentence structure; and be thoroughly proofread.

Each annotation will be accorded 10 points (with the most possible points for the whole assignment being 100): two points for each of the four steps, plus two points for grammar and style. However, your annotated bibliography must meet the global criteria as to a range of sources to receive an “A.”

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*For the first draft you only need to have **five** annotations completed, but you must have 10 for the final draft.