



Argument Paper

Instructions

Annotated Bib and Argumentative Paper Assignment



Congratulations! You've come this far in the course and this far in the *Serial* podcast. You have a couple of episodes left. However, you know enough to start your research paper. (But keep listening in case there's something you can use).

This assignment is split in two:

- 1) the annotated bibliography and
- 2.) the argumentative paper.

The annotated bibliography is a list of possible sources you can use for your research paper. It lists the

citation, summarizes the source, and discusses why or why you would not use this source in your paper.

The **annotated bib** helps you focus your research and analyze the viability of possible sources.

The **argumentative paper** is a research paper. We will study the structure of it, which allows the writers to write their opinion and support it with their research.

Don't worry, you're prepared to do this research paper.

You've already done a version of the annotated bib in Step 9 of the Profile Essay module when you researched lying. You've been searching things in the databases already. You've learned how to cite sources during the MLA module. You learned about keyword searching. In the annotated bib module you're learning to cite. You're so ready.

PART 1: Annotated Bib

You will use several sources to formulate your opinion but only a couple of them will be used in your paper. Please write an annotated bibliography for every source that you use for this project, **even if you're not going to use it in your paper.** Additional sources may include maps of the area, anything used for context like articles about 1999, lying, memory, etc.

The goal is to show how in-depth your research is, whether the source is worth using for the argumentative paper and that you are considering more than just a couple of valid sources for your opinion and paper.

Use **MLA 8 format for the citations**. Don't forget to use the hanging indentation. I will need several sentences for each entry. Consider what you learned in the Summary/Paraphrase Module. Discuss what the source is specifically and the strengths and weaknesses of the source. Also, discuss whether or not you are using that source and state the reasons. (Remember, this is a column on your Research Log.)

While there are several ways of doing this, please refer to the assignment specific requirements to complete it as well as what you learned in the Annotated Bib module.

You will need a minimum of 10 sources. You can have more. Check D2L for the due date as it is before the research paper is due.

Part 2: Argumentative Paper

You will write a 4-5 page MLA 8 formatted argument paper (the page count does not include the Works Cited page) answering the following questions:

Did Syed kill Lee? Why or why not?

This is the question we have been trying to answer the entire semester. We have learned and used several things to get to a conclusion. We have done a murder board, we have compared and contrast two witnesses,

we have learned about lying and memory, we have listened to the Serial podcast, and we have been in the databases and learned about keyword searching.

The paper will need to follow the structure of an argument paper and will need to **have three to five viable sources. You can have more if you need them. Definition sources like the dictionary will not be counted as sources.**

WARNING: The strength of your argument comes from the strength of your sources. So, if your sources are not good, your paper will not be either.

Remember, no Wikipedia, no sources that are not viable, and no blogs. I want YOUR argument backed up by facts.

The paper will need to have the thesis in the first paragraph of the essay (preferably the last or second to the last line of the paper). Consider what you learned in the Annotated Bib module where you watched a video on how to write a thesis.

If the thesis is not there, I will not read your paper. It will not receive a favorable grade.

Remember the structure of the argumentative essay that you learned in the module. Do not vary from the structure. Also, stay to page length. Anything beyond the fourth page will not be graded, no exceptions.

For due dates please consult D2L for your class's individual due dates. Remember, this date is **DIFFERENT** from the annotated bib assignment.