

Annotated Bibliography

Requirements: Research a topic, writing summaries, use MLA format.

Written Length: 1-paragraph Proposal and 4 bibliographic references, including annotations (100-250 words each)

Due Date: Please refer to course outline

Worth in Overall Grade: 10%

IN THIS ASSIGNMENT, YOU ARE PROPOSING YOUR RESEARCH ESSAY. YOU MUST USE THE TOPIC/STREAM YOU CHOSE DURING THE RHETORICAL ANALYSIS.

An annotated bibliography is a list of research sources that includes a short summary. This assignment is intended to help you prepare for the research essay and to increase your familiarity with MLA format. Please title your summary “An Annotated Bibliography on <insert topic here>”. This way I know what topic you are addressing.

You need to find **four** sources and provide a short annotation for each one. *The sources must be cited in correct MLA citation and the whole document should conform to MLA format.* The annotations should not rely upon quotation, but should be developed through paraphrasing. You may also address how you will use the source in your essay. **ALL YOUR SOURCES SHOULD BE EITHER BOOKS, ARTICLES, OR OTHER SOURCES FOUND THROUGH A LIBRARY.**

If you are unsure if a source is acceptable, please discuss it with me in advance of the due date.

This assignment is intended to help you prepare for the argumentative essay and to increase your familiarity with MLA format. Your assignment should look nearly identical to the example.

This assignment consists of two sections:

1. The Proposal

The proposal will take the shape of one to two paragraphs. In the paragraph you will clearly state which question you are working on and what your current thesis is regarding that question. Essential, you are proposing and outlining an essay you want to write. You should elaborate and define your terms clearly and the piece should be at least 5-7 sentences long, but no more than 350 words.

1. The Annotated Bibliography

A bibliography is a listing of research sources. You need to find **four** sources and provide a *correct MLA citation along with annotations. You must use the current edition of MLA (8th ed).*

PLEASE NOTE: you are writing an academic paper, so you need to minimize any bias or “gut-reaction” you might have to these topics. Remember to use sophisticated, scholarly and/or professional sources.

You will submit an annotated bibliography in the combination style. This style combines (a) a short summary with (b) a short evaluation, drawing on what you learned in readings and in class. You should review your sources carefully and evaluate them to make sure that they are relevant to your topic but also to provide you with the information you need to support your argument.

If you are convinced that the sources you found are of value, you can now write your annotated bibliography following these general guidelines for your summary:

Guidelines for the first part of the summary:

1. Write your annotation from an objective third-person point of view.
2. Be brief in your summary. You do not have to provide the fine details of the argument, such as a restatement of the evidence, but you do need to give the main thesis, the claims, and the conclusions.
3. Your summary should indicate the *ethos* of the author (his or her authority) and the viewpoint he or she takes.
4. Provide an evaluation of the overall merits of the source: its strengths and weaknesses.
5. State why you think this work is suitable for your topic. What information does it provide that will help you forward your argument? Remember that this, too, should not contain any “I” statements. For example, rather than writing, “I feel this article is good because....,” you should write, “This article is particularly useful because it focuses on the social aspects of drug use.”

A Rubric for the Annotated Bibliography

Bibliographic Entries (8 marks total)

Each entry is worth 2 marks; each error in MLA reduces score by .5 a mark

Annotations (16 marks total)

Quality of Sources (2 Marks Each)

2	1	0
The source is an academic source, with a clear relationship with the topic	The source is credible, but may present problems in use or represents “popular” or “summary” documents	The source is not credible or exceeds the limits of one source from the Internet.

Quality of Writing (2 marks each)

2	1	0
Uses well-written, grammatically correct sentences effectively; Easy to understand and engaging to read; Make very few and very minor technical errors.	Frequent problems in diction (wordiness, obtuseness); problems in sentence structure or reliance on passive language; Only a few major errors and shows proofing has been done.	Numerous errors; clarity of text is seriously compromised.

The total possible marks you can receive on this assignment is 24.