

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

WHAT IS THIS ASSIGNMENT?

A bibliography is a compiled list of sources (such as journal articles, books, essays, etc.) pertaining to a particular topic, and arranged in alphabetical order. An annotation is an explanatory note, and in the case of this assignment, one that both **analyzes and evaluates the source**. Put them together, and you have a list of “secondary sources”—texts that will be used to extend and deepen your analytical argument—with concise overviews of each. **More than a summary**, your annotations will demonstrate your **critical reading** of the text, and articulate its relevance to your project. This stage of the project is designed to advance your information literacy—the ability to recognize when you need information, identify the kinds of information you need, and then locate, evaluate, and utilize that information accordingly.

This assignment asks you to begin by your research process by finding two quality sources. Why the low number? Because the primary aim of this assignment is for you to learn about your research process and how to improve it, not finding a bunch of sources just to show me that you can. The emphasis is on **quality sources**, not quantity. More specifically, it's about 1) understanding what would make a quality source for your project, 2) how to find it, 3) how to evaluate it, and 4) how it's productively connected to your artifact, your analysis of it, and the issues raised by both.

To help achieve these goals, you're asked a couple of questions designed to prompt reflection on the process and then think about where it needs to go next. You're then asked to correctly cite each source in MLA format. Finally, practice your critical reading skills and provide an annotation for each entry using the rhetorical précis (pronounced *prey-see*) template.

WHAT'S THE EXACT SEQUENCE?

To create your annotation for each source, follow the annotation template.

To format your Annotated Bibliography, cite each source in MLA format and place your annotation of the source below the citation.

For the final step, answer the following four questions as thoroughly and accurately as you can:

1. What keywords and keyword combinations did you use in researching? How did they evolve?
2. Which topics or issues were you curious to learn about through your research and why so?
3. How well do the two sources you have chosen to annotate measure up to these research goals?
4. What type of sources do you need to keep searching for in order to advance your analysis and develop an argument?

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