

Report 3: Annotated Bibliography

Assignment Rationale:

This assignment asks you to display the results of your research, and to demonstrate that you have made yourself an authority on the topic you are researching. It asks you to practice the skills of summary, analysis, and evaluation, and to cite this material using MLA style. The ultimate purpose of the assignment, however, is to prepare you to write a well-researched argument for your research paper assignment. If you become familiar enough with your sources to fulfill the requirements of this assignment, you will be excellently prepared to write a paper that uses sources well but is not overpowered by them.

Purpose:

To learn about your topic: Writing an annotated bibliography is excellent preparation for a research project. Just collecting sources for a bibliography is useful, but when you have to write annotations for each source, you're forced to read each source more carefully. You begin to read more critically instead of just collecting information.

To help you formulate a thesis: Every good research paper is an argument. The purpose of research is to state and support a thesis. So a very important part of research is developing a thesis that is debatable, interesting, and current. Writing an annotated bibliography can help you gain a good perspective on what is being said about your topic. By reading and responding to a variety of sources on a topic, you will start to see what the issues are and what people are arguing about, and you'll then be able to develop your own point of view.

Definition:

A bibliography/works-cited page is a list of sources one has used for researching a topic. It is a valuable tool for collecting and assessing sources; I believe that there is no greater tool for the budding student researcher than completing an annotated bibliography assignment. It requires students to efficiently find sources, digest them, summarize the pertinent information, provide critique, characterize authorial credential, guard against bias, and so much more.

Assignment:

Each annotation consists of: (A) a citation; (B) a detailed summary of your source; and (C) your analysis of the usefulness of the source in terms of your research and the purpose of your paper. You only need to cite (and write about) three sources, and each annotation should cover the source thoroughly and clearly, yet concisely. You are not obligated to use the sources in your final essay.

(A) **Citation:** Citations should follow MLA style.

(B) **Summarize:** Type out (or copy/paste) each question and answer in complete sentences (answers should be two to three sentences long):

1) What is the main argument of the resource?

2) What are some details that support the argument?

(C) **Analysis:** What kind of benefit will this source provide the research and topic you are looking into?

THIS SHOULD BE DONE IN ONE GOOD SIZED
PARAGRAPH – 4-6 SENTENCES

EXAMPLE:

1. Jamison, Lesley. "Effects of Divorce on Children - Clinical Psychology Associates of North Central Florida." *Clinical Psychology Associates of North Central Florida Gainesville Ocala Florida*. Clinical Psychology Associates, 1 Jan. 2001. http://cpancf.com/articles_files/effectsdivorceonchildren.html. Accessed on 12 Mar. 2012.

When parents decide to divorce, their child or children are faced with multiple problems. Children from divorced families have to learn to get along with the many changes in their family. The number of contact with one parent, often their father, will be decreased. Children may have to move from their family home or change schools. They may have a reduced standard of living. They may have to live in two homes. They may have more responsibility placed on them. The parent may be physically and psychologically less available for children due to increased demands. Often, children initially focus on these immediate negative effects of the family breaking up, and do not find comfort in knowing that other families that have divorced finally be okay.

Full, numbered Citation

Full summary and analysis and 1 good sized paragraph.

Should have 7-8 of these for your Annotated Bibliography when submitted

Some of the information on this web page was taken from the following websites:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_annotatedbib.html

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/Rhetoric/teaching_research.htm