Project 2: Annotated Bibliography

Project 2 will immerse you in the process of academic research. You’ll use the wealth of resources available to us as scholars to explore a topic of your choice. This project will require you to become familiar with the basic practices of academic research and to develop your summary and response skills. Your final product will be one of the most common and most effective tools to organize and present your research: the annotated bibliography.

Purpose and Audience

Your purpose is to present your research findings in a format commonly used by other scholars. Your audience for this project is anyone who is interested in your topic.

General Instructions:

1. Choose a research topic that interests you. It can be almost anything, and I’m glad to help you decide. I encourage you to choose thoughtfully: ideally, you will use this topic (and your research) for Project 3 (the research paper). See my note on choosing topics below.
2. Attend a library orientation with our class to learn about credible sources and how to access them.
3. Compile a Works Cited list in MLA style.
4. For each source, write an annotation that summarizes the source and explains how it relates to your specific research topic.
5. Draft an introductory paragraph that explains the goals of your project, what you plan to include in the final product (your research paper), and why your topic is significant to your audience. You may want to include background information on your topic – include whatever will help your readers (other college students conducting research) understand the purpose of your annotations.
6. Compare your annotated bibliography to a sample to ensure you have correctly followed citation and formatting guidelines.

Basic Requirements

- Correct MLA format.
- Minimum 8 credible sources. See note on credible sources.
- At least one source is an academic journal article.
- Includes an introduction.
- Each annotation contains at least 3 sentences.

Important Dates

- Wednesday, October 16th – rough draft due for peer review
- Monday, October 21st – final draft due (uploaded on Blackboard before class)
Using Credible Sources

There are lots of sources and publication types that can be considered credible, but there is also lots of misleading information available online. The information on credible sources in your ECU Guide to Writing can help you determine whether or not a particular website is worthy of being included in your research.

A Note on Choosing Topics

Although you should choose a topic that interests you, you may also wish to avoid topics that are too controversial. One reason is that you will be asked to work with your classmates on various activities related to this assignment. If you choose to write about abortion, for example, you may have trouble accepting feedback that conflicts with your stance or raises objections. Your peers may also have a hard time giving that feedback if emotions run high.

The other reason to avoid major controversies is that your ultimate goal is to write an argumentative research paper, and it can be incredibly difficult to develop a fresh approach to a topic like abortion or the death penalty. If you feel strongly about an issue that you think might be questionable, please email me or stop by my office hours. I truly enjoy helping students find topics they care about, and I would be glad to help you think of an interesting angle.

Grading Rubric

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<th>Grade</th>
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| A     | - Includes more than 8 sources.  
         - Annotations describe how each source might be used to construct the argumentative research paper (Project 3).  
         - Project introduction explains why the topic is significant/relevant to the audience. |
| B     | - Annotations explain relevance of each source to research topic.  
         - Project introduction is clear and well organized. |
| C     | - Correct MLA formatting.  
         - Includes 8 credible sources.  
         - Includes project introduction.  
         - At least one source is an academic journal article.  
         - Annotations provide clear and accurate summaries of sources. |
| D     | - Fewer than 8 credible sources.  
         - Major errors in formatting.  
         - All sources are web articles. |
| F     | - Insufficient or non-credible sources.  
         - Incorrect MLA formatting.  
         - Distracting grammar errors. |

Need Help? Please email me and/or visit my office hours as you work on this project. I’m here to help! Please take advantage of my years of experience with writing papers – let me help you work around the obstacles that come up as you write. Of course, you can also visit the Writing Center – the Writing Consultants there are eager to help you. Don’t suffer in silence – there are lots of ways to get help!