Short Paper 2.3: Annotated Works Cited

engl 111 / sec. D / autumn quarter 2010-11 / chang

Part of the academic and scholarly enterprise is research. Unfortunately, not all research nor references nor sources are created equal. Organizing, evaluating, and selecting research materials is just as important as finding relevant books, articles, studies, reports, images, videos, and artifacts. The critical thinking and close reading skills you have been developing become necessary tools for finding and choosing quality references. For example, simply Googling a keyword or phrase and taking the first fifteen entries **does not** a critical or useful bibliography make. Sources, particularly those found online, must be treated with attention, respect, and a little bit of healthy skepticism. Choosing solid and useful references can influence the authority and strength and exigence of your writing, your argument, and your evidence.

It is good habit to make notes about your sources as you discover them and read through them. What are the main arguments of the source? What are the main points and the main examples or evidence? Is the source relevant to my research, my claim? Is the source credible, timely, and useful? Attach your notes to a copy of your source (if possible). Your notes may save you time and effort during your writing process as you sift through what you need and use in your work. Your notes can also be used to generate an **annotated works cited or bibliography**. Each entry of the bibliography is given a note—as short as a few sentences or as long as several paragraphs. In many academic disciplines, annotated bibliographies published with essays or articles help readers (potential researchers) with a summary and brief evaluation of a source. In a sense, an annotated bibliography is way to "pay it forward" for future researchers, who will use your annotations to decide whether a source is useful or relevant to their own work. Furthermore, in creating an annotated bibliography for yourself you are crystallizing the main points of your research, which may serve as points for review, revision, support, interrogation, challenge, discussion, and exploration.

Goals and Outcomes

Annotated bibliographies come in many different forms, with many different conventions. In this class, you will be required to write-up an MLA style annotated bibliography. However, all annotations across disciplines require: **critical analysis** of the source and **summary** of the source. A basic annotated bibliography may follow the following format (each entry contains):

1) standard MLA-format bibliographic entry.
2) **three** to **five** sentences of summary; summarize main ideas, main points, main arguments; identify the writer's main position; directly quote useful portions or information.
3) **two** to **four** sentences of critical evaluation or analysis; why is the source useful or relevant; how does the source relate to your research topic.

By now, you should have started research for your second sequence Major Paper. Remember that your final paper requires a bibliography of **6 to 8 authoritative sources**. For this assignment, though, **select three of your references**, preferably from three different resources or bodies of evidence. Then, using proper MLA format, generate a bibliographic entry and annotation for each reference. Appropriate resources for annotation can include chapters in books, journal and newspaper articles, documentaries, scholarly blogs, and authoritative websites. However, **select sources with care**—do not just take the first that you find. Consider how each provides a **different kind of evidence** and how each may be appropriate in certain **writing contexts**. You may wish to group references around a central theme, idea, claim, or research question.

Targeted outcomes: _____

Turn in: 23-34 inches, typed, no title page, proper heading, double-spaced, stapled

Draft Due: Monday, November 15, e-copy

Final Due: Wednesday, November 17