

Writing Challenge 5.1: Annotated Bibliography

engl 281 / sec. D / autumn quarter 2009-10 / chang

Part of the academic and scholarly enterprise is research. Unfortunately, not all research nor references nor sources are created equal. Choosing solid and useful references can bolster the authority and strength of your writing and your argument. Make notes about your sources as you discover, read, and use them: What are the main arguments of the source? What examples or evidence seems vital? Is the source relevant to my claim? Is the source credible, timely, and useful? These notes can also be used to generate an annotated 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 help readers with a summary and evaluation of a source. In a sense, an annotated bibliography is way to “pay it forward” for future researchers. As part of this week’s writing challenge, you will be required to generate a tentative bibliography for your Research Proposal Memo (3 to 5 sources) and fully annotate one of your proposed sources. The annotation must include: a standard MLA-format bibliographic entry; a paragraph of summary; summarize main ideas, main points, main arguments (you can directly quote useful portions or information); and one to three paragraphs of critical evaluation or analysis of why the source useful or relevant and how does the source relate to your research topic.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 1-2 pages, annotate one source, typed, no title page, proper heading, MLA bibliographic format

Due: Tuesday, November 3, turned in with Research Proposal Memo, at the start of class

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