

English 102: Rhetoric and Composition
Major Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography and Project Proposal

Introduction:

If you want to write effective academic arguments, you must first learn to conduct scholarly research. This project aims to help you cultivate the skills necessary for conducting academic research, from evaluating sources, to utilizing citations styles, to integrating outside sources into your own argument. To achieve these aims, you will create a helpful research tool called an Annotated Bibliography and write a short proposal outlining your plans for your future research project.

Requirements:

Annotated bibliography sources (for First Final Draft): 8

Annotated bibliography sources (for Final Draft for the Final Portfolio): 10

Project proposal length: 350 words minimum

Style guidelines: MLA (See [MLA Purdue Owl](#))

Due Dates:

- First draft due for peer review by start of class 10/4
- Peer Review response due by start of class 10/6
- Final draft due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm, 10/11

Assignment Details:

This assignment asks you to explore and evaluate current research related to your research question. You will survey and analyze the variety of sources you have found completing your ILPs and developing your question. As you conduct more research throughout the semester, you will add additional bibliographic entries to this assignment for the Final Portfolio. The first final draft of the annotated bibliography must include at least 8 sources, while your final draft at the end of the semester must have 10 sources total.

Selecting good sources is important for this assignment and your Researched Argumentative Essay. Do not simply take the first few articles you find. To select good sources, you will need to read through multiple periodicals and articles. Remember, you are trying to select sources **that can address your research question, not merely sources that are related to your “topic.”**

Your sources should include:

- At least three scholarly, peer-reviewed articles.
- At least two contemporary popular sources (credible newspapers/websites)
- At least one non-text-based source, such as a TedTalk, YouTube video, podcast, performance, display, etc.

You are free to include any of the sources that you have already written about in previous assignments (unless otherwise advised). Be careful, though, not to simply copy and paste content that you have already written about those sources into your summaries. Instead, your summaries must directly address the prompts detailed below.

For each source, write a proper MLA citation and an annotation that:

1. Summarizes the central claim and major evidence of the source (2-3 sentences).
2. Assesses the credibility, relevance, timing, and/or bias of the source (1-2 sentences). Pick the elements that best convey the reliability of your source.
3. Reflects on the suitability, utility, or applicability of the source for your project (1-2 sentence) (If you have a difficult time answering this, you should find a new source).

MLA format requires your citations to be in alphabetical order, by the first word in the citation. For further help with formatting, you can look to the chapter on MLA in your *Everyday Writer* or to [Purdue Owl's MLA Formatting and Style Guide](#).

****Always be sure to clearly identify what is the author's argument and what is your opinion****

Project Proposal (350 words minimum):

After you have completed gathering your initial (8) sources, you will write a proposal that explains your research project. Using all of the sources you have annotated, you will outline the positions and conversations surrounding your argument and develop a detailed thesis as a preliminary answer to the research questions driving your project.

You should not merely “parrot” or “mirror” the conclusion of a single source. Instead, you should address how you plan on using your sources together to put forward an initial answer to your research question. Remember that your project is less about “picking a side” or choosing an argument as it is deciding how you plan to enter the scholarly conversation around your topic.

Some questions to consider when writing this proposal and imagining your future research project:

- What question(s) do you have about this topic?
- What question(s) do most people have about this topic?
- Can you address/solve/complicate what is at stake in this topic?
- Remember Stasis: Are there any facts/definitions/policies/terms/perspectives that are not addressed/should be addressed/clarified in your topic?
- Can you show examples or readings that contribute to this topic?
- What do you want your audience to learn/gain/understand/do after reading your project?

Do not simply answer these questions! Use your answers to these questions to craft a clear, informative account of what your research paper will address/accomplish.

The proposal itself must do the following:

- Must be no less than 350 words and no more than 500 words
- Identify your topic and your main purpose/claims/questions you plan to discuss in your longer researched essay
- Briefly explain roughly how you will use your sources
- Include a working thesis statement in bold