Assignment 3-1
Exploring Topics through Annotated References

Points: Class Participation
Due: Week 3
Overview

In Assignment 2-2: Analyzing to Identify Common Interests, you identified a number of topics raised by fellow classmates in their Assignment 1-1: Conversation Starters postings. By reading their messages and posting responses that both analyze and build upon the initial postings, you are extending the conversation about topics of common interest. In this assignment, we are going to extend the conversation even further, bringing voices from outside the class into our discussion, and we will do so by using the library research databases to locate sources and by creating annotated reference listings.

The Assignment: Locate three current-events sources in Franklin's periodical databases, read the sources, and write annotated reference listings for each, posting them to the *"Topics of Interest"* discussion board. *Annotated references* (commonly called *annotated bibliographies*) generally include two key parts: (a) a full citation of the document (in this case, using APA format) and (b) one or more paragraphs summarizing and evaluating the audience, purpose, and content of the source. The nature of the notes tends to vary depending on the purpose of the annotated reference. For this assignment, you will provide the full citation and a paragraph summarizing the source's key points.

Additional Requirements: At this point in the course, we are focusing on identifying topics that class members feel worthy of discussion, but we are also developing research and writing skills you will need to use later in the course to locate and use sources in longer formal papers. To make sure you are meeting both these aims, adhere to the following additional requirements:

• Each source must come from a newspaper, trade journal, or popular magazine found in the Franklin databases.

• Each source must come from a different periodical.

• Each annotated reference must begin with an APA reference-list citation for the source.

• Each annotated reference must have a summary paragraph.

• Each annotated reference should be posted as a separate message to the *"Topics of Interest"* discussion board. Post the annotated reference as a reply to the posting that identified the topic you chose to research. Change the subject line of your annotated-reference postings (using the discussion board's "Advanced" editing feature) to match the title of the source.

Action Items

1. Review your classmates' postings on the *"Topics of Interest"* discussion board and note the topic or topics you find most interesting. (You can choose to focus on just one topic, as long as you identify three articles from three different periodicals; alternatively, you can find articles that each address different topics of interest.)

2. Create a list of search terms related to the topic or topics you wish to research.

3. Using the library research databases, locate articles that interest you and address the topic.

4. Write an annotated reference for each article. Although you will post your annotated references online in the next step, compose them first in a separate word-processor document. Be sure to refer to *Rosen* (Chapter 29) and the *Franklin Style Manual* for APA citation guidelines and models.

5. Post your annotated references as *separate* messages as replies to the relevant topic message in the *"Topics of Interest"* discussion board. Be sure to change the subject line of your posting to reflect the title of the article you are annotating. (You can easily change the subject line of the posting by using the "Advanced" reply form, rather than the "Quick Reply" form.)

6. Browse through the annotated references your classmates posted, noting two articles that look interesting to you (besides those you annotated yourself). Locate those articles in the library databases and read them for yourself. Note any similarities or differences you had with your classmate's take on the source.

7. Bring your notes about your classmates' postings to class for discussion, as well as print-outs of all the articles you read.

Submission Instructions

Two days before class, post your annotated references. Bring copies to class, along with notes you made about your classmates' postings and the print-outs of the articles.