**Annotated Bibliography**

**Overview:** In academia, it is our responsibility to embrace an issue’s complexity before solidifying our opinions. One way to accomplish this is to create an inquiry question within the scope of a current, debatable issue. This question guides us as we research an issue and analyze the major stakeholders of the issue.

**Purpose:** The purpose of an annotation is to inform yourself and your audience of the relevancy, accuracy, and quality of the sources collected throughout a research project. There are many reasons why we would want to write an annotated bibliography. First, it is an excellent way to prepare for a research project as it provides a means to keep track of your close and critical readings of multiple texts—it allows you to see what has been done/said in the conversation and where your own research or scholarship can fit. Second, it helps you gain a sense of various perspectives about your topic—you start to see what the issues are, and what people are arguing about; these help you formulate a thesis and find ways to contribute your own ideas. Finally, annotated bibliographies provide a comprehensive overview of everything important that has been and is being said about an issue/topic, and sharing this overview is helpful to other researchers.

**Audience:** An annotated bibliography is primarily a tool for the researcher; however, when it is shared within a writing community, it becomes a valuable tool for many researchers. For this assignment, your primary audience will be yourself and your instructor; however, you will eventually be sharing these annotations with your peers, who may find the information useful for their own research aims.

*Directions*: Your annotated bibliography will be composed of six distinct annotations you have gathered from your independent research. An annotation is composed of three distinct parts:

1. a citation in MLA format,
2. a brief, descriptive summary (note that summary writing is different from taking the abstract provided for many sources verbatim; you must provide an academic summary of the entire text),
3. an evaluative statement that includes its relevancy and the reliability of the source to your topic and/or stakeholder.

Note 1: You are not allowed to use articles previously read in class for the annotations.

Note 2: An abstract is a brief summary of an article often presented on databases for you to consider if you’d like to read the full text or not. Do NOT use these abstracts as your own academic summary—this constitutes plagiarism. Also, do not merely offer a summary of these abstracts—read the full article and compose your own academic summary.

**Requirements:**

* You must have a total of six annotations
* **four annotations must reflect four different stakeholder positions;** these four stakeholder positions will be presented in the analysis essay—be sure that the annotations express the reliability and relevancy of the source in terms of the stakeholder it represents
* three annotations must come from scholarly, academic sources
* one of the annotations must come from an interview/field research with an expert
* you may not use texts previously read in class
* Each annotation should be about a page
* combine all annotations into an annotated bibliography that is alphabetized and correctly formatted per MLA standards

**Keep in Mind:**

* Improve your credibility with your *audience* by avoiding spelling and grammar mistakes.
* MLA has a standard format for creating Annotated Bibliographies; to improve your credibility, use this format.
* Type your essay in 12-point, Times New Roman font and double-space it.

**Paper Length**: about six pages

**Group Workshop Date:** Completed drafts must be posted to the Workshop folder by Monday, March 3rd

**Due Date**: Wednesday, March 12th

**Worth**: 10% of your final course grade

\*\*NOTE: At the end of your paper, include the following honor pledge: “*"I have not given,  
received, or used any unauthorized assistance."*

**Annotated Bibliography Grading Rubric**

**Total Points: 100**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Excellent** | **Satisfactory** | **Unsatisfactory** |
| **Annotations:**  Each of the six annotations have clear and distinguishable citations, summaries, and evaluations. Each annotation reflects close and critical reading of the text by offering a concise and objective summary. The summary offers short quotations, paraphrases, and appropriate attribution. The evaluation of the text clearly explains the source’s reliability, relevancy, stakeholder position, and usefulness to the line of inquiry being followed. | **Annotations:**  Each of the six annotations have the three parts needed for a proper annotation (citation, summary, and evaluation), but they may not be clearly distinguishable from each other, especially the summary from the evaluation. Annotations may need more development of summary in order to clearly understand the overall argument the text makes. Annotations may need more development of evaluations in order to understand the reliability, relevance, and/or usefulness to the line of inquiry. | **Annotations:**  There may be fewer than six annotations. The annotations have weak summaries and/or do not provide support for source evaluations. OR, the summary may be adequate, but the evaluations are thin or missing. Or, the evaluations may be adequate, but the summary is missing. |
| **Range of Sources**  The AB represents a range of perspectives surrounding your inquiry question, including four different stakeholder positions. At least three of the sources must be from scholarly, academic texts that work to showcase your sophisticated and refined research skills. There should be a balance of both informative and argumentative sources. At least one of the sources reflects field research—an interview with a representative of a specific stakeholder position, for example. The sources have come from various reliable forums (ie: databases, websites, field research, journals, books, documentaries, etc…) | **Range of Sources**  The range of perspectives does not necessarily reflect four stakeholder positions, or it does so incompletely or indistinguishably. Scholarly and academic texts are presented, but too infrequently; they do not showcase a refined/sophisticated method of research. Though there may be some question about the reliability of some sources on the AB, for the most part research is reliable. The researcher may benefit from searching other databases/forums that would better show good researching skills. The AB needs a better balance of informative and argumentative sources. Field research is present, but does not reflect a representative position of one of the four stakeholder positions. | **Range of Sources**  The range of perspectives is limited; four clear and distinguished stakeholder positions are not represented. The sources used do not reflect careful, scholarly consideration. The AB may have sources that are unreliable or comprised of lower quality sources. The AB may have sources taken from only one venue (ie: only one database used). Field research is missing, or poorly represented. |
| **MLA Standards**  MLA style for citations is followed precisely. The format used is correct for the type of source being portrayed. The AB is correctly formatted: double-spaced, annotations are alphabetized, aligned left margin for the first line of a new annotation followed with a hanging indentation, no extra spaces between annotations, etc… | **MLA Standards**  Minor errors in the citation(s) are present. In general, the format for an AB is followed, but one requirement may be overlooked. | **MLA Standards**  Citation does not follow MLA style and/or citation errors are prevalent. The AB may have multiple format errors and/or does not follow the prescribed format for an AB. |
| **Conventions and Style**  All guidelines on the assignment sheet are followed. Appropriate choices are made for an AB. The AB is carefully proofread and edited for accuracy and clarity. | **Conventions and Style**  While most of the guidelines on the assignment sheet are followed, sometimes the writing is not appropriate for the genre. The AB as a whole would benefit from careful proofreading and editing for clarity. | **Conventions and Style**  The rhetorical choices are inappropriate for this context and/or the document is unclear. Attention to conventions is needed. |