

COMM 413W: MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC

Annotated bibliography requirement and rubric

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Overview

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations with information about the actual manuscript included underneath each citation. This key info is not the same as the abstract, as it may be less wide-ranging, and more specific to the interest of your paper. Make sure you use all contents with your own words. Never copy-paste from any study, especially the abstract section. Usually, each paper annotation should consist of the following parts (some may address all three steps, but some may combine first two steps together):

- Summary: What are the research questions? What is the main argument? What topics (of your interests) are covered? Think about if your friends or classmates ask what is the article or book about, what would you say? Paraphrasing is the key!
- Evaluation: After summarizing the article, it would be helpful to have a evaluation or criticism on it. Is the evidence utilized reliable? Is the research biased or objective (relatively)?
- Reflection: After the first two steps, you need to ask how does it fit into your final project? How does it help you shape your argument? And how can you use this source in your research project?

Requirement

Based on your chosen theory or theme, locate several scholarly articles dealing with this theory. Ultimately, you are building toward completing the final paper, so you may wish to review those requirements in full before searching for literature. At this stage, though, you need simply identify *at least* 10 - 12 but no more than 20 **scholarly** articles or book chapters that you can use to help describe current trends in research on your chosen theory. Therefore, these should be relatively recent (ideally published no earlier than 2010) articles. You may not select articles assigned for class; you might also find broader literature review or theory pieces helpful. But the goal is to be able to use this material to ultimately describe our current understanding of this theory.

For each article/chapter, provide a full citation (APA 7th edition style) and a one-paragraph description summarizing the main ideas expressed in the article and why it will be helpful in helping you explore your chosen theory.

Note that these need to be scholarly articles — the authors should be experts in the field and writing for an academic audience. Articles need to be published in peer-reviewed journals. Book chapters should similarly be in volumes aimed at other scholars, not brief descriptions taken from textbooks. Encyclopedia entries and the like are not appropriate. Nor are theses, or dissertations, as they have not undergone adequate peer review and revision. Conference papers are debatable because some conferences do have peer review process involved depending on the field (e.g. computer sciences, information science, etc.). So please consult with me if you want to include those papers.

Examples

Article

Ensign, J., & Ammerman, S. (2008). Ethical issues in research with homeless youths. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 62, 365-372. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2648.2008.04599.x>

Summary

The authors, doctors at the University of Washington and Stanford respectively, conducted research on the ethical implications of using incentives to entice homeless youths to participate in a variety of research studies. Using a web-based survey, the researchers gathered feedback from seventy-two healthcare providers, program administrators, and other researchers. After conducting the study, it was found that researchers with different backgrounds or research goals supplied different kinds of incentives for participation in research studies. Healthcare providers conducting health-related research were most likely to offer vouchers or gift cards in exchange for research participation. Money was more often used by researchers interested in mental health or substance abuse topics to obtain homeless participants.

Reflection

This article speaks to my goal for taking action by protecting the rights of homeless youths from being exploited, in this case from researchers seeking data at the potential expense of the homeless individual's welfare.

Book

Lamott, A. (1995). *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anchor Books.

Summary

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic.

Evaluation

In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun. Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach.

Reflection

Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.

Assignment Format

1. Write out a 1-paragraph introduction (double-spaced), similar to a paper proposal (but shorter, do not go over 1 page) ending with what your research questions and/or hypotheses are
2. Then, annotate at least 10-12 but no more than 20 of the most relevant studies you can find related to your topic
3. Your final submission should be double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12-point *Times New Roman* font and the citations should be in APA 7th edition style

Assessment criteria

- Quality of the introduction;
- Relevance of chosen citations to your proposed study
- Thoroughness of annotations
- Proper grammar and implementation of APA Style throughout