

Major Assignment 2: Annotated Bibliography

Proposed Due Date: 9/27

What It's Worth: 100 points

"Read, read, read. Read everything -- trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write."

- William Faulkner

◆ The Purpose

Now that you have your initial research question, you will need to find out where this question is situated in the broader conversation of writing studies. In order to answer an authentic research question, it is crucial to know what has already been asked and stated in your chosen discourse community. The goal of your semester-long research project is to generate new knowledge and to gain an understanding of the existing literature surrounding your area of interest.

Before joining an existing conversation, you first have to 'listen' and find out what the discussion is all about. The same goes for your Annotated Bibliography. This is the 'listening phase' of your project, where you gain an understanding of the context of your chosen area of interest before you add to the conversation through your research paper.

◆ The Content

Your Annotated Bibliography will list sources alongside summaries of what each source is contributing to your observed conversation. There will be two sections to this assignment:

1) An Introduction

Here, you will elaborate and expand on research niche (a specialized segment of your area of interest/chosen discourse community). You will explain why you choose these sources and what the conversation is surrounding them. You will also be addressing the gap you have identified in these sources (or in the literature, overall) and the primary research you plan to undertake as you focus your research question.

You can address these components in 1-2 paragraphs. There is no need to deep-dive into your sources, as long as you establish the overarching conversation.

2) An Annotated List

Here, you will list your sources with accompanying 250 to 300-word annotations. You will need to have at least six (6) sources of which three (3) must be writing studies related (you can consult *Writing About Writing* for these sources, if you would like to do so).

When you annotate each source, you will need to explain its relevancy to your research. Extract information for each source that correlates to your research niche. The goal is for you to maintain focus on your research question in order to build the

foundations for your Revised Research Proposal/First Draft. These annotations and citations will need to be arranged in MLA format.

◆ **The Structure**

You will need to include an introduction and an annotated list in your Annotated Bibliography. It must be in MLA format. You must include at least six (6) sources, of which three (3) are writing studies related.

This is a more formal genre of writing, so it will need to adhere to the MLA format. As important as the format is, the way you extract information that is relevant to your specific research niche is more important. This will also be a key feature in your Final Research Paper, and it will be the main aspect I consider as I evaluate and assess your assignment. In essence, the overall length of your assignment will range from approximately 1500+ words.

◆ **Additional Advice**

Organizing your sources in this assignment will allow you to make connections between your research question and your chosen discourse community and will allow you to identify certain gaps in the existing literature centered on your area of interest. Existing literature involves any source materials associated with your chosen discourse community and the field of writing studies, for example: *Writing*

About Writing and associated texts. This assignment corresponds to your Revised Research Proposal/First Draft, where you will be elaborating on your research question and addressing where and how your research fits in within the context of the broader academic conversation.

Subsequently, this assignment will also set you up for your Final Research Paper as it will become a significant part thereof. In essence, your Annotated Bibliography will directly contribute to the content of your Final Research Paper.