Annotated Bibliography Instructions

What’s an Annotated Bibliography?

“Bibliography” is synonymous with the “Works Cited” list (MLA), or the “Reference List” (APA) that typically appears at the end of a student research paper.

An annotated bibliography includes extra elements for each citation. An annotated bibliography can either be done before a full research paper (to allow your instructor to check the sources you plan to use) or as a substitute for a full paper (placing emphasis on how well you analyze each separate resource rather than requiring you to pull the separate ideas together to support a single thesis).

What’s Required for this Assignment?

For each of EIGHT SCHOLARLY ARTICLES related to the SAME TOPIC you will:

1-CITE: Prepare the bibliography entries by accurately listing the sources in alphabetical order. Use database citation tools to format your entries, but check against whatever guidelines your instructor has provided.

2-SUMMARIZE: Restate the main idea of the article (its hypothesis, purpose, or problem) and its main conclusion. Three to seven sentences should be used for this summary. Be sure not to copy the abstract provided by the article author or the database. The first or last paragraph of key sections of the article (Introduction, Conclusion, Discussion) are good places to find these main ideas. Also look carefully at any idea that is repeated in several places in the article.

3-ASSESS: Add a sentence or two about the value or relevance of each article. Some of the questions below can help you assess the article’s value:

- Would you likely use this article if you were preparing a complete research paper? Why or why not?
- Is the article relevant to this project, or does it focus more on another area?
- Is the article too scholarly? Not scholarly enough?
- Was the content covered too broad? Too specific and narrow?
- Do the data-gathering or testing choices make sense to you?
- Does the article have findings that could be applied to other times, other places, other research subjects?
- Can you discover anything about the author(s) to indicate qualifications, levels of authority, or biases?
- Has this article been cited by many other researchers in their articles or books?

Careful verb choice can help you write good, concise annotations. The verb list below, adapted from the University of Toronto website, may be useful in completing this assignment:

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