

Annotated Bibliography

Rough Draft: 03/30

Final Draft: 04/06

For this assignment, you must first find **five peer reviewed articles** that will help you make an argument regarding the specific topic you choose to comment on for your research paper.

Though you have not yet received the assignment for your research paper, it will ask you to take a position on your research question and support it through research. The research paper is not a “report”; it is an argument in which the claim is yours and you use research to back up what you use for evidence.

The Annotated Bibliography is directly connected to your research paper. The five sources you find could back up (or refute) your claims in the research paper; however, if you read and consider the sources, you may find the sources irrelevant to your argument in the research. Such a discovery is part of the “invention” process and is fine—and you can still use these sources for your annotated bibliography, even if they end up being outside the scope of your research paper. This does not mean that you can find sources totally off topic! You may just decide to approach the topic from a different angle when you begin writing the research paper.

So, for the Annotated Bibliography assignment, you must **first** find five peer reviewed articles on the specific topic of your research paper. **Second**, you must read and annotate these articles carefully. **Third**, you must write an annotated bibliography.

An annotated bibliography consists of the MLA citation for the source with a brief (no more than 250 word) annotation following the citation. For this assignment, the annotation must consist of three elements, in the following order:

- 1) a paragraph long summary of the article that is concise and non-repetitive; this summary should be informative, not descriptive (in other words, don't state what the article is “about”; concisely state the author(s) main point and what evidence the author(s) use(s) to support the point);
- 2) your paragraph long evaluation of the value of the article, based on your understanding of the subject, the author's credibility, the quality of the source; and
- 3) a third brief paragraph stating how this information is or is not relevant to the claim you think you might make in the research paper.

EXAMPLE

Wright, Elizabethada. "Reading the Cemetery, Lieu de Memoire par Excellence." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* 33 (2003): 27-44. Print.

This article argues people can "read" the cemetery, not merely by reading tombstones, but by looking at the geography of the burial ground, erosion of tombstones, and structure of roads. Such a reading reveals what generations have considered important and "factual"—and how something that may have been an important fact can suddenly become insignificant to an audience. Considering how this cemetery text is authored by many people who don't usually write long-lasting texts, the article argues the cemetery is a particularly good medium for considering "truths" not found elsewhere.

This article does not specifically cite Marshall McLuhan's quote "The medium is the message," yet part of his argument seems embedded within the article's argument. The theory on which the article is based gives credibility to this article's unusual perspective: that the message of the text in the cemetery is not nearly as important as how the medium of the cemetery conveys messages—and conveys meanings different from that found in other media. Additionally, the source is found in a scholarly journal, and is likely credible for that reason.

For my paper using ideas of Marshall McLuhan arguing that texting is detrimental to student writing, this article is invaluable. Though the essay does not address texting and student writing, the author's implicit understanding and use of McLuhan's ideas help me support my own claim.

Dimension	Criteria	Developing	Competent	Exemplary
Sources	Writer lists a minimum of five sources from scholarly “peer reviewed” journals.	5	8	10
Summary	Writer summarizes each article in his/her own words with skill and accuracy	10	15	20
Evaluation	Writer provides a reasonable assessment of the quality of the source	10	15	20
Relation to Topic	Writer identifies utility of each article for his/her purposes.	10	15	20
Style/ Organization/ Formatting	Bibliographic entries demonstrate mastery of MLA style. Each annotation follows the ascribed paragraph order. The paper is formatted correctly, using the example as a guide.	7	10	20
Proofreading	Writer uses Edited Standard Written English with precision and accuracy (grammar, spelling, and mechanics).	6	8	10

Key to Categories:

- I.** Exemplary: The writer demonstrates mastery in this area.
- II.** Competent: The writer demonstrates satisfactory skill in this area.
- III.** Developing: The draft needs revision, and/or the writer needs further instruction and practice.