Annotated Bibliography

Draft Due February 23 via email kmercer@olympic.edu
Graded drafts returned to students via email by March 2
Final Version Due March 9, 2006 via email kmercer@olympic.edu

Your draft version will be graded and returned to you by email. If you wish to improve your grade, you may submit a revised, final version. If you are satisfied with your grade, you do not need to submit a final version.

Deadlines
Late submissions of either draft or final versions of this assignment will not be accepted without prior approval.

Acceptable Formats
Work must be submitted in any one of these 3 formats:
   “Rich Text Format” .rtf,
   “Microsoft Word” or compatible .doc, or
   “text only” .txt

Help is always available
I have designed this course so that you will be working on this assignment throughout the quarter. If you have any concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me. I prefer that you use the Discussion Board, since your questions are almost always germane to other students, but if privacy is an issue, please contact me privately through email. kmercer@olympic.edu

Annotated Bibliography Defined
A bibliography is a list of materials (books, magazines, internet sites, etc.) used by an author in their research and is a standard appendage to most academic writing. An annotated bibliography goes further in that each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph (the annotation). The annotated bibliography as a whole provides a selective, critical review of the literature on a particular subject. The advantage of including annotations is that they inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

An annotated bibliography constitutes a sizeable challenge in research, without requiring the additional labor involved in creating a full-blown research paper.

Required Contents
1. Your annotated bibliography must contain 10 or more sources from a variety of formats and with varying viewpoints on your topic.

You must include one of each of these types of sources
   ● An article from a subject encyclopedia,
• a book,
• a scholarly journal article,
• a popular magazine article,
• a newspaper article,
• a Web site.

Other acceptable sources include government documents, interviews you conducted, lectures or speeches you attended, television or radio programs, videos, films, sound recordings, an online image or series of images, emails, and postings on an email discussion groups, Web forums, or Web logs (i.e. “blogs”).

2. Write an opening paragraph that introduces your topic to the reader. Include your thesis statement. (Selecting a topic and forming a thesis statement will be discussed in detail during the first week of class)

3. Cite all of your sources in MLA style. (MLA style will be explained during the first week).

4. Arrange citations alphabetically by author.

5. In narrative form, speak to each of these 4 points in each annotation:
   a) Clearly state the authority and qualifications (or lack thereof) of the author.
   b) Explain the scope or main purpose of the text.
   c) Compare the item to other works in your bibliography.
   d) Offer a critical opinion about the work.

**WRITING GUIDELINES FOR ANNOTATIONS**

Keep your annotations short. Good annotations run between 150 and 250 words and exhibit complete sentences and standard English usage. Try to be brief and clear as possible, while adhering to a formal, academic tone. Remember, this is academic writing—not the conversational style you use in casual written communications such as email, chat, and instant messaging.

It is sometimes challenging to find the vocabulary in which to summarize and discuss a text. Here is a list of some verbs for referring to texts and ideas that you might find useful:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>account for</th>
<th>clarify</th>
<th>describe</th>
<th>exemplify</th>
<th>indicate</th>
<th>question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>analyze</td>
<td>compare</td>
<td>depict</td>
<td>exhibit</td>
<td>investigate</td>
<td>recognize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>argue</td>
<td>conclude</td>
<td>determine</td>
<td>explain</td>
<td>judge</td>
<td>reflect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assess</td>
<td>criticize</td>
<td>distinguish</td>
<td>frame</td>
<td>justify</td>
<td>refer to</td>
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<tr>
<td>assert</td>
<td>defend</td>
<td>evaluate</td>
<td>identify</td>
<td>narrate</td>
<td>report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assume</td>
<td>define</td>
<td>emphasize</td>
<td>illustrate</td>
<td>persuade</td>
<td>review</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
You will practice evaluating and writing annotations and you will get feedback on your work, during the second and fifth weeks of class.

**Example**
Below is an example of a citation for an e-book with its annotation.


Bloomfield claims he is a Yale-trained psychiatrist and is the author of 4 other books, two of which are self-help bestsellers. Bloomfield has appeared on the talk shows of Oprah Winfrey, Sally Jessy Raphael, Larry King, and Geraldo. Mikael Nordfors is a psychiatric researcher at a hospital in Sweden. McWilliams is a writer.

The book promotes the use of Hypericum as a safe and effective treatment for depression. It defines depression and outlines treatment strategies, describes the history of Hypericum, and summarizes its side effects and dosages. It also provides summaries of favorable medical studies conducted in the 70’s 80’s, early 90’s.

Compared to other articles and books on treating depression, such Roberta Roesch’s 1991 *Encyclopedia of Depression*, or E. Beckham’s 1995 *Handbook of Depression*, this book treats its subject very lightly. Overall it provides the reader with only a summary. The book links to a site that sells the herb and other products. Unfortunately, the book omits readily-available less-favorable medical studies. Similarly, the herb’s safety cannot be corroborated. For example, a pamphlet from Washington State University titled “St. John’s Wort, what you should know” ([http://www.hws.wsu.edu/Health_Info_Line/brochures/St._John_s_Wort.pdf](http://www.hws.wsu.edu/Health_Info_Line/brochures/St._John_s_Wort.pdf)) lists many substances that react adversely with the herb: e.g. antidepressants, migraine headache drugs, diet pills, smoking cessation medications, pain medications, cough medications & cholesterol lowering drugs.

Bloomfield’s career centers on publishing and selling self-help products, and he appears to use the talk-show circuit as a shill. He is a skilled self-promoter who overlooks the dangers of self-medicating a mental illness without the supervision of a therapist.

Word count: 258
Grading

Your annotated bibliography must contain at least 10 sources. If you submit more than 10 items in your bibliography, I will grade the first 10. Do not submit a full-blown research paper. Research papers will not be graded.

1. Required types of sources
   a book,
   an article from a subject encyclopedia,
   a scholarly journal article,
   a popular magazine article,
   a newspaper article, and
   a Web site.
   (10 pts will be deducted from your total for each item type that is missing)

2. Opening paragraph and thesis statement (20 pts, see table)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-18</td>
<td>An inviting introduction draws the reader in. There is a clear and focused thesis statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-15</td>
<td>An introduction is present but does not entice the reader. There is a thesis statement, but it is ambiguous or unfocused.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-0</td>
<td>The introduction lacks coherence. There is no clear thesis statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Sources cited in MLA style. (20 pts. see table) Points will be deducted only if you are missing elements (e.g. omitting a title). Minor punctuation errors will not count against you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 pts</td>
<td>All MLA citations are accurate. No elements are missing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-10 pts</td>
<td>MLA citations are inaccurate and/or are missing elements. Reader could, however, fill in gaps, and might be able to obtain source materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-0 pts.</td>
<td>MLA citations are unintelligible. Reader is not given enough information to obtain sources materials.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

4. Arrange citations alphabetically by author. If author cannot be determined for a particular item, alphabetize that item by title. (5 pts will be deducted from your grade for each item that is out of alphabetical order)

5. Each annotation, in narrative form…
a) Clearly states the **authority** and qualifications (or lack thereof) of the author. (4 pts)
b) Explains the **scope** or main purpose of the text. (4 pts)
c) **Compares** the item to other works in your bibliography. (4 pts)
d) Offers a critical **opinion** about the work. (4 pts)

(4 pts ea x 4 x 10 = 160 pts., see table below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Competent</th>
<th>Developing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>Writer identifies the author and accurately summarizes author's credentials</td>
<td>Writer identifies the author and summarizes their credentials. Some significant details are missing.</td>
<td>Writer identifies the author but fails to summarize credentials, or fails to identify author altogether.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Writer effectively identifies the item's reason for existence and summarizes the purpose of the site; writer includes several supporting details and/or examples</td>
<td>Writer summarizes the purpose of the site and provides at least 1 supporting detail or example</td>
<td>Writer lists contents, but summary of purpose is weak, or has little to do with actual site. Summary may be missing altogether.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>Writer successfully compares item to other items in their bibliography; writer includes several supporting details and/or examples</td>
<td>Writer compares item to 1 other item in their bibliography and includes at least 1 supporting detail or example.</td>
<td>Writer vaguely references another item and does not supply supporting details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinion</td>
<td>Writer's opinion is expressed clearly and focuses on evaluating how the author handles the topic at hand.</td>
<td>Writer's opinion is vague about how the author handles their topic. Writer focuses more on the overall topic.</td>
<td>Writer's opinion centers on the overall topic. Writer does not address how the author handles the topic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

200 points total