Annotated Bibliography Assignment Description

The annotated bibliography is an important step in the research process and thus an integral element to the “Major, Major” Seminar Paper. Please look over the sample annotated bibliography posted on Moodle to get a sense of format for the assignment.

You will need a minimum of five (5) sources for the annotated bibliography. Please note that printed articles found online count as print sources; internet sources consist of any text that can only be found on the web. I encourage you to largely limit yourself to websites ending in .gov, .org, and .edu, depending on your topic.

Each complete and accurate citation (MLA 8th edition) should be followed by a paragraph consisting of three things:

- **Content:** What does the article say? What is it arguing? What information/statistics does it give you? (Approximately three (3) sentences, based on the length of the source.)

- **Use:** How will you use this source in your paper? Remember that you don’t have to use the source just because you found it. You are welcome to explain why this source will not be helpful to you. (Approximately two (2) sentence.)

- **Bias:** In what way might this source be biased? Be aware that any newspaper Op-Ed is inherently biased (hence opinion-editorial). Also, remember that many, many news sources (and individual authors) are widely recognized to lean in one direction or another. Acknowledge this. It doesn’t make the source useless; it just takes it in perspective. (Approximately three (3) sentences.)

The annotated bibliography for the minimum of five (5) sources should be between 2-4 pages. If your include more sources than the minimum it is fine to go over the four page approximate range. As long as you cite in correct MLA 8th edition format, list your sources alphabetically, and answer the three prompts listed, you should be in good shape. Please do not number your sources.

**Research tip:** When accessing sources please take the time to read abstracts and the list of sources (Works Cited, Bibliography, References, etc.) provided by the writer(s) as this is often a treasure trove of leads to other relevant material. In this way research is more collaborative and synergistic.