

ENG 331: *American Drama*

Fall 2004

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ASSIGNMENT 1: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Due: October 25, 2004

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a short, usually about 100-200 words, descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the actual annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

Purpose of assignment:

A review of the literature on a particular subject, in this case, the preliminary research you will do for your research paper for this class. Consequently, you will need to think of a topic/thesis on which you may want to write your research paper. I know this is early in the semester, but try to decide on at least a tentative topic. It is also possible that your research for this assignment will help you find an interesting topic.

Annotations vs. Abstracts:

Abstracts are the simply descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes. Annotations are descriptive *and* critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression, and authority.

How to read:

In order to select the sources you want to include in your bibliography you will have to do a fair amount of reading. However, remember that at this point you are not reading for in-depth, detailed knowledge, but rather skimming and summarizing the main points of the source. Later, when you are writing your research paper, you will want to return to your sources and read them with greater attention to detail. However, you will then know from your annotated bibliography which sources are the most important to your topic, and which ones can safely be omitted.

How to write:

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research. First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic (See "Online resources" below). Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide the greatest completeness as to perspectives on your topic. Cite the book, article, or document using MLA style.

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or

background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) possibly, compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

The annotation should cover the following features of the source: the **indicative, informative, and evaluative** features of the text annotated.

Indicative: This form of annotation defines the scope of the source, lists the significant topics included, and tells what the source is about. This type is different from the informative entry in that the informative entry gives actual information about its source.

In the indicative entry there is no attempt to give actual data such as hypotheses, proofs, etc. Generally, only topics or chapter titles are included.

Informative: Simply put, this form of annotation is a summary of the source. To write it, begin by writing the thesis; then develop it with the argument or hypothesis, list the proofs, and state the conclusion.

Evaluative: In this form of annotation you need to assess the source's strengths and weaknesses. Also, state why the source is interesting or helpful to your topic, or why it is not. In doing this you should list what kind of and how much information is given; in short, evaluate the source's usefulness.

Combining: Combine all three of the above. This is the type of annotation you should aim to produce.

Style:

Because each annotation is fairly brief, only directly significant details should be mentioned and any information apparent in the title can be omitted from the annotation. In addition, background materials and references to previous work by the same author usually are not included, unless you are listing these as well as separate entries in your bibliography..

Scope & Limitations:

You should phrase your topic/thesis in such a way that you do not have to read extreme amounts of sources in order to adequately cover the research area. In short, make sure you limit your topic adequately, and state the limitations in the title of your bibliography.

Example:

John Keats's *Lamia*: An Annotated Bibliography on Scholarly Writings
Commenting on Woman-As-Serpent Imagery, 1980-2003.

By Jane X. Doe

The bibliography should include a minimum of 10 sources, of which two may be online sources. If you include an article found online, but which has previously been published in a hardcopy publication, that article may be counted as a non-online source. The ASU library offers many online articles these days, which can be found through the research databases (below).

Correct Format for the Citations:

The bibliography should be composed in MLA format, and in alphabetical order. The Writing Center MLA guidelines refresher sheet: <http://www.asu.edu/duas/wcenter/mla.pdf> (in your case the section on “Works Cited” will be most useful).

How to locate your bibliography entries: Online resources:

An example of a very well written annotated bibliography on Greek drama: <http://members.tripod.com/DemKoutsogiannis/biblio2.htm>

Research databases:

- The Library catalog: <http://info.lib.asu.edu/lib/>
- Go to <http://www.asu.edu/lib/resources/indexabs.htm>
These databases may be useful to locate articles and books relating to the subject you wish to cover with your bibliography. Search for the following databases by name: America: History and Life, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Essay and General Literature, Historical Abstracts, Humanities Full Text, MLA Bibliography, Nineteenth Century Masterfile.

Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry for a Journal Article in MLA format:

A book

Sewell, Wayne. *Weaving a Program: Literate Programming in WEB*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1989

Sewell explains the code language within these pages including certain lines of code as examples. One useful idea that Sewell uses is to explain characters and how they work in the programming of a Web Page. He also goes through and describes how to make lists and a title section. This will be very useful because all Web Pages have a title section. This author also introduces Pascal which I am not sure if I will include in my manual but after I read more about it I can decide whether this will be helpful to future users. This book will not be the basis of my manual but will add some key points, which are described above.

An article

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Waite, Linda J., Frances Kobrin Goldscheider, and Christina Witsberger.
“Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations
Among Young Adults.” *American Sociological Review*. 51 (1986): 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that non-family living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited previously shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of non-family living.