

Thesis, Annotated Bibliography and Final Paper

Thesis: The first step in writing a paper is to come up with a thesis statement. It should be at least a paragraph and must state exactly what the paper is going to be based on. The best way I found to formulate a thesis is, after you find your subject, to come up with a question or questions you want to answer. The question/s keep you focused on your topic. Then formulate your thesis from the questions. I think it is easier to write your paper if you have a clear set of questions to guide you. My only **REQUIREMENT** is that you run your topic by me **BEFORE** you write your thesis to see if it's acceptable.

Annotated Bibliography: (10%) The due date for the Annotated Bibliography is November 9, 2015. The annotated Bibliography contains the sources the paper is based on. "An **annotation** is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Depending on your project or the assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following."¹ You must use a primary source (documentation from people present at the event) and 2 secondary sources for this paper. Some of your readings are from primary sources. I have marked them. You must use at least one primary source and at least 2 secondary sources for the paper (2 books; one book and two articles or 4 articles). No encyclopedias or text books can be used. You may use ONLINE SOURCES but they must be legitimate and scholarly sources such as peer reviewed journal articles. You cannot use sites such as 'ask.com or history.com' or Wikipedia nor can you use book reviews. The terms scholarly **excludes all of the following:** online sources (other than digitized primary sources or peer-reviewed articles); textbooks; movies and documentaries; popular publications such as coffee table books or mass-market magazine. You can consult such works **BUT** they should not be your principle sources for your paper. You can use the books and the other class readings for your paper **BUT** you still need at **least 2 secondary sources** for the paper. **No Exceptions!!!!** This is a research paper and therefore you have to do research. You should run your sources by me before you write the bibliography. (For more detailed information on writing an annotated bibliography see: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>).

I want you to do both: summarize and evaluate each source in your bibliography.

Summarize: "Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is."²

Assess: After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?"³

You must annotate each of your sources. For further explanation and for an example of an annotated bibliography, please use the following website:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>.

¹ : <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

² : <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

³ : <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>