

102, Unit 3: Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

These assignments represent the last two paper formats required in WRI 102 this semester. Use them as a chance to demonstrate what you now know about college-level research writing.

THE PROPOSAL (1.5pp MAX) 1.5 pages

Proposals are short documents that explain an idea for research that will be conducted at a future time. As undergraduates, you might be required to write a proposal for a topic you wish to research in a much larger project over the course of the semester (for example, as an honors thesis).

Because they discuss work that has not yet been completed, proposals can be written using **future tense verbs**. You can explain to the reader what the work "will" accomplish, what it "intends" to achieve, and what the results "should," "could," or "might" be by the time the project is finished.

For our final assignment, you will **propose a research paper topic for a future WRI 102 course**. The proposal should be formatted in two sections: the assignment topic, and your specific requirements for the paper. Both sections should ask students to work on skills that have been developed in our own section of WRI 102 this semester and can draw from writing- and research-related concepts and vocabulary that you heard about in student presentations; read about in *They Say/I Say* and the *Pocket Style Manual*; and saw in class handouts and assignment sheets throughout the semester (*the "Course Goals and Outcomes" section of the Syllabus could be especially helpful here*).

In the **"Assignment Topic" section**, give your future student writers a specific topical goal, question, or purpose to explore. If your goal for the paper is somewhat open-ended, you might give the students *some more focused topic ideas* as examples of what you are looking for in the finished papers. (You can look at my assignment sheets for ideas to follow, but *do not copy assignments that were already used in this class*.) If you expect the students to conduct any primary research on their own, explain that part of the assignment here.

In the **"Requirements" section**, give the student specific research goals that must be met in terms of paper length, number and types of sources expected, and any other relevant goals that you expect to see the student meet. A checklist of source types could be useful here.

To format the Proposal, use double-spacing throughout. Give each section a heading, and feel free to use bullet points to list the Requirements.

As you develop your Proposal, make notes about your writing and revision process; this information will go into your final Revision Reflection of the semester. You should also make notes about the specific content that you took from the Syllabus, class handouts, textbooks, and student presentations to help you formulate the Proposal's topic: THESE IDEAS WILL BE USED IN THE FINAL EXAM, a reflective short essay.

THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (1.5pp MAX)

2.5 pages 101, 102

MLA 5th

Annotated bibliographies combine several skills that you have worked on in assignments in WRI 102. They are sometimes required for research papers in upper-division classes (and often go along with Proposals!) because they give the professor/reader/audience an overview of the content that you have discovered in your independent research.

An annotated bibliography is formatted like a standard Works Cited list with full MLA citations for each source, but beneath each item you include a **brief summary/overview** of the source's content and main ideas. Providing a **cited quotation** gives the reader a sample of the author's wording and style. You may also be required to include some sentences that **evaluate the source** and explain why the source is reliable, relevant, and beneficial to the research project. **Your Pocket Style Manual provides a model Annotated Bibliography that you should follow for this assignment (section 27d, pp. 101-102).**

In your Annotated Bibliography, you will provide a model list of sources for your future WRI 102 students to follow so that they can see what kinds of sources you have in mind for the research they will complete in your Proposal assignment. Whatever sources you list as requirements in your Proposal must be modeled in the Annotated Bibliography so that your students can see a) sample MLA citations for each kind of source, b) what a summary looks like (and, in this case, each summary should contain ONE CITED QUOTATION from each source), and c) what you think makes a source reliable.

To format the Annotated Bibliography, **use the format shown in your Pocket Style Manual (101-02).**

The Annotated Bibliography is a chance for you to demonstrate your own skills with MLA citation and your awareness of the range of sources available to a college-level research writer, so it is advisable that you pick quality sources and not "cut corners". Your grade will be based partially on the variety and strength of the source list. **You will also be required to provide marked-up printed copies of your sources as part of your third Portfolio, so be sure to keep those as you read!**

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Tues 4/25: You'll have the whole class period to work on your Proposal assignment topic (Prewriting 8 – the last one of the semester) and to start looking for sources for the Annotated Bibliography. **Read the suggested section of the Style Manual and BRING IT WITH YOU TO CLASS. Also bring laptops or tablets if you have them;** otherwise, you're welcome to use the classroom computer. (DON'T FORGET that your **Synthesis 2 portfolios are also due** in today's class meeting!)

Thurs 4/27: Another class period for developing the Proposal and Annotated Bibliography. Bring laptops/tablets and your *Pocket Style Manual*. Today, you'll also receive information about formatting the Portfolio for these assignments.

Tues 5/2 (final class meeting): Bring printed copies of the Proposal and Annotated Bibliography for an in-class peer review session. We also review the Final Exam requirements on this date.

FINAL EXAM: Your Proposal and Annotated Bibliography portfolios are due at the start of the Final Exam session. (Remember that you'll included marked-up printed copies of all sources referenced in the Annotated Bibliography as part of the portfolio.)

PROPOSAL RUBRIC

The Proposal is worth up to 4 points and is graded on:

Inventiveness and Appropriateness of the "Assignment" Section: 1 point

Scored on the originality of the topic that you set and its appropriateness for a WRI 102 class. The score will take into account how closely the assignment reflects skills and learning outcomes relevant to the course.

Appropriateness of the "Requirements" Section: 1 point

The score will take into account how closely the requirements reflect skills and learning outcomes relevant to the course. The section should also set goals that are appropriate to a typical WRI 102 course Unit.

Application of Appropriate Terminology: 1 point

This score reflects how much of the semester's vocabulary is used in both the Assignment and Requirements sections. Terminology from the Syllabus, student presentations, and textbook readings should be used throughout the Proposal to demonstrate your own awareness of such terms.

Formatting and Editing: 1 point

Scored for correct formatting of the document and for elimination of sentence-level grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors throughout.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY RUBRIC

The Annotated Bibliography is worth up to 7 points and is graded on:

Correctness of MLA 8th Edition Bibliographic citations: 3 points

Errors in spelling, bibliographic detail, and punctuation will lower the score, as will failure to alphabetize the list. MLA 8th Edition style is required throughout. **For this assignment, it is the student's responsibility to check and format all citations correctly: the professor will not check or correct citations on any drafts or exercises.** If using online citation generators, a database citation tool, or a guide book, be sure that you are following formats for the 8th edition of MLA (not the 7th).

Thoroughness and Clarity of Annotations: 4 points

Each annotation should follow the format and length suggested in the *Pocket Style Manual* example and **MUST** include: a summary overview of the text's main argument, at least one cited quotation, and an evaluation of the source's reliability and relevance. Sentence-level errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation will lower the score.