

**Annotated Bibliography for Ethnographic Inquiry Research**  
**Writing and Rhetoric II**  
**First 5 entries Due March 16**  
**Complete Annotated Bibliography Due April 4**

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations of potential secondary sources for your research, including books, articles, and other resources. Each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph: the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is for you to evaluate the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources you might use in your final ethnographic researched inquiry essay.

Work through the following four steps to create your annotated bibliography:

**1. Locate Source Material.**

- Gather 10 secondary sources, including a minimum of 2 scholarly books, 4 academic “refereed” articles, and up to 4 “other” popular culture or media sources.
- If you have problems finding sources, “plunder the bibliographies” of the sources you already have – what books or articles did the authors of what you have use? What key words show up in the articles you already have that could lead you to additional source material?
- Read the title, abstract, introduction, conclusion, and browse through the references of every source.
- Sort through your material to familiarize yourself with the general idea presented by each author(s). Think about how the author or material is positioned as an authority or as a credible source for this issue and who the intended audience for the work is.

- 2. Review and read your materials more closely: Ways of Reading - Believe/Question/Doubt<sup>1</sup>:** There are, of course, many, many ways of reading scholarly works. Here are some that would be useful to try out for this course (or any course, for that matter). You won’t want to respond to all the questions for every piece you read, but consider choosing some from each of the three categories so that you get different perspectives on a reading. Take notes for yourself as you go along.

**The Believing Game (with thanks to Peter Elbow)**

- What is the author’s project? What does she/he hope to accomplish/argue/explore?
- Why does the author consider this project important?
- To whom is the author writing?

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Cindy Selfe for this summary of ways of scholarly reading.

- What are the main points the author makes on the way to constructing her/his argument?
- Is there a key sentence or the paragraph in this piece that interests me? Why is it key?

**The Questioning Game (with thanks to David Bloome)**

- To what other conversations in my area or research does this argument relate/connect?
- What are the author's claims and what do they offer as evidence/data?
- What definitions of main concepts are contained/reflected/refracted in this piece?
- What are the personal and community consequences of these definitions?
- How does this piece reflect and refract existing cultural ideologies connected to my research ideas?
- What could I add to this conversation?

**The Doubting Game (with thanks to the academy...)**

- What questions do I have for the author? Where do I want to argue with her/him?
- Where in this piece do I want to talk back to the author? Why? What do I want to say?
- Do I have experiences/data/beliefs that run counter to the claims of this piece? If so what are they? Where do they come from?
- What important piece is left out of this piece? What is not there that should be there?

**3. Evaluate Your Source Materials**

- Identify the main argument, the major methods of investigation (how was this research collected and analyzed), major theoretical lenses for the work, and the main conclusions.
- Assess how relevant the source is to your research. You can use the questions below to think about this:
  - Are you interested in the source material itself or the questions the researcher are asking?
  - What does the source do for your thinking?
  - Does the author or work expand your thoughts?
  - Raise new questions?
  - Serve as data for your research?
  - Offer an example for methods of gathering or analyzing your data?

- Provide an example of a way to go about thinking or writing about your research?
- Provide a counterargument or new perspective?
- Give you good additional or background information?
- Just make you think “Wow!”?

**4. Write the Annotated Bibliography Using MLA format.**

**For each source (in alphabetical order by lead author):**

- Record the full bibliographic information in MLA style.
- Summarize (briefly) the main argument, the major methods of investigation, major theoretical lenses for the work, and the main conclusions of the work.
- Explain how *specific* ideas presented by the author/authors in the work seem relevant or connect to your research site and research questions (*use your answers to the questions in Evaluate your Source Materials section above*). You should include quotes and page numbers.
- Discuss what you think about and what position you take in response to those specific ideas (*use the questions from the Ways of Reading section to help here*).
- Specifically articulate what role this source will play in your research project overall. Will it help provide background? A method? A theoretical frame? A key example? Not be helpful at all?