

## Project 2: Annotated Bibliography and Source Synthesis

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**Rough Draft/Author's Note due 2/25**  
Peer Workshop on 2/28

**Revised/Final Draft due 3/4**  
See more details on the Project 2 rubric

### WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Now that you have a solid inquiry question, you need to figure out what different discourse communities are saying before you join the conversation. Part of engaging in a conversation is evaluating whether the information you hear is trustworthy and accurate. So, in this unit, you will search for sources that help you answer your question while also evaluating their reputability and relevance to your topic. The annotated bibliography helps you make sure you understand your sources' arguments and purposes before you use them for your own argument in Unit 3. You're also going to go one step beyond simply summarizing and evaluating these sources; you are going to synthesize them, creating a visual map/representation of the conversation between these sources. How do all of these sources relate to each other? How do their arguments connect? How do they help you understand your question? This synthesis will help you figure out how you might enter into the conversation in Unit 3. The key terms for this unit are **rhetorical situation, context, and knowledge**.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

You will create one document that has two parts: the annotated bibliography and the source synthesis. Part 1 is an annotated bibliography of at least five sources. Part 2 is a visual synthesis/map of the sources' arguments and information and a short written explanation of what your visual shows about the conversation around this question. (Your visual synthesis may be uploaded as a separate document.)

### Title: Your Inquiry Question

Use the inquiry research question you developed in Project 1 as your title, centered below your MLA heading. All of the sources should clearly address the conversation around your inquiry question.

### Part 1: Annotated Bibliography

Your goal for this annotated bibliography is to summarize, evaluate, and demonstrate how you plan to use these sources in your Unit 3 argument. Follow these steps:

1. Find a source and make sure it is timely, reputable, and relevant to your research.
2. Read the source thoroughly, taking notes as necessary.
3. Write a bibliographic (i.e., Works Cited) entry for the article in MLA style. (See the OWL at Purdue for more information, along with many other online resources.)
4. Then, write a **150-250 word annotation (purposeful summary) of the article**. Include the **word count** at the end of each annotation (the word count does NOT include the bibliographic entry). This annotation should include:
  - A 1-3 sentence **summary** that is objective and discusses the thesis of the article (i.e., its main argument), the article's main points, and its context (i.e. where it was published and how). Do not include any quotes or extra details. *DO NOT plagiarize; use your own words.*
  - A 3-5 sentence **evaluation** of the source's accuracy and credibility. Provide an overall judgment of the source based on your evaluation, and then give evidence from the source itself to support that evaluation. *Don't just continue to summarize; analyze and evaluate!*
  - A 1-2 sentence **plan** for how this source will be useful to your research project. Demonstrate how you will use this source in your project: will it be background info? Will it support a particular point? *Not all sources should have the same plan!*
5. Do this same process with your other sources.

Remember, **at least one of your sources needs to be scholarly and peer-reviewed, and at least one of your sources needs to have been published in the past two years.**

Each bibliographic entry should use hanging indents and be in alphabetical order (see the formatting video and template on Blackboard). Each annotation will be worth 15 points. (*If you have more than five annotations, I will read the six and take the highest five grades; please star the annotations you would like me to read, or I will simply read the first six annotations.*) Overall MLA formatting will be worth 5 points.

## **Part 2: Visual Synthesis**

Here you will take your five sources and create a **visual representation** of how these sources connect. You can do so in any way you like. You can create a graph, a chart, a timeline, or a drawing. The main thing you want to do is demonstrate how all of these sources relate to each other. Think of it like a map: you're basically creating a visual of the conversation around your question. You can create this visual on the computer or by hand. How will you use color and shapes rhetorically to show connections? You must use and label at least five sources in this visual synthesis/map.

Include a 200-300 word **explanation paragraph** in part 2 of Project 2 where you describe the connections you saw between the sources and how you represented them in your visual synthesis. Tell me about the choices you made in your synthesis and why you made them. Explain to me how all of your sources relate and what you were trying to do through your synthesis. Refer to each of your sources by the last name of the author.

*A note: I will not be grading how beautiful your synthesis is; this is not a visual arts class! Instead, I will be grading how you map out the connections between your sources—and how you explain them. However, you will want your final draft of your synthesis to look clean, clear, and professional.*

The visual synthesis will be worth 10 points, and the explanation will be worth 10 points.

## **WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE?**

Your annotated bibliography will likely be around 5-6 pages, **double-spaced, and in MLA format**. Please include a header with your name and the date, as well as your research question as your title. Use hanging indents for each of your bibliographic entries, but use traditional indents for your annotations and visual synthesis paragraph. See the formatting template on Blackboard for more information. Your annotated bibliography should be submitted as a **Word document**, but your visual synthesis may be uploaded separately as a PDF or a JPG. This project is worth 15% of your grade.

## **WHEN IS IT DUE?**

**Rough draft and author's note is due by Friday, 2/25 at 11:59 PM** to the Project 2 Workshop Draft [assignment box](#) on Blackboard. (See Week 7 for more information.)

Bring two printed copies of Project 2 (including your visual synthesis) to **Peer Workshop** on Monday, 2/28 during class.

**Final draft of all elements of Project 2 (annotated bibliography, visual synthesis, and explanation paragraph) is due by Friday, 3/4 at 11:59 PM** to the Project 2 Final: Annotated Bibliography and Visual Synthesis [assignment box](#) on Blackboard.