The Annotated Bibliography

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WRTG 101- Addiction: Private and Public

See Syllabus for the Due Date

The purpose of this assignment is to improve your research skills. You will begin every writing project with a certain idea, then that idea will refine and change according to the research that you find. You need to educate yourself about your topic, and you also need to find an angle that interests you. Therefore, if you do not do a good job of researching you are likely to end up bored, frustrated, and with a bad paper.

The Goals:

1. Discover the scholarly conversation around your topic.
2. Evaluate relevant source material.
3. Be able to summarize complex arguments by established scholars.
4. Combine different texts in order to develop anoriginal idea.

**Preparing for the Research Paper**

The readings so far have given you a taste of the radically different views people hold when it comes to addiction. Because the causes and cures for addiction are unclear, groups have difficulty developing a consensus on how to address these problems. For the research paper, you will propose a change in policy connected to addiction. (If you have a topic you want to explore that does not seem directly relevant to addiction, discuss it with me. We can probably find a way for it to work.) To write this paper you will have to know 1) Why the current policy was developed. 2) Who the current stakeholders are around the issue. 3) What empirical evidence is available to support or refute arguments. 4) What underlying values or assumptions are driving the debate. So, for this bibliography you will look for sources that can answer these questions.

The purpose of the annotated bibliography is to identify, evaluate, and analyze each source. Professors often require annotated bibliographies (and their close cousins, literature reviews) in order to help you organize and evaluate your research. It is a way to teach yourself a topic; doing the annotations forces you to synthesize and internalize what you have read.

Required types of sources

For the annotated bibliography, you will annotate a total of six sources. At least four sources should be academically acceptable—whether it is peer-reviewed or from a trade journal. Two sources can be from popular journals.

Annotations

Each source will have a full APA citation, followed by:

* **2-3 sentences summarizing the source’s *focus***: the topic plus the thesis.

Incomplete entry:

Abuse of Prescription Drugs and the Risk of Addiction. Drug and Alcohol Dependence, 83S, S4-S7. Retrieved April 9, 2014, from <http://ac.els-cdn.com/S037687160600055X/1-s2.0-S037687160600055X-main.pdf?_tid=ca6617c2-c063-11e3-b67f-00000aacb362&acdnat=1397102238_40f5808775d135a83afc92ff998a8762>

*The authors bring up some vital questions that must be considered when determining a successful course of action to decrease opioid abuse. This article focuses more on addiction and how people can be assessed for addiction. Since people can become dependent on drugs at a young age, it is important to create ways to reach them through education early on before they are addicted and it is much more difficult to treat their addiction*.

The citation is missing the authors and date, the two most important elements. The summary is so general that the article seems to have no usable content.

Specific and complete example:

Chakravarthy, B., Shah, S., &Lotfipour, S. (2012). Prescription drug monitoring programs and other interventions to combat prescription opioid abuse. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine: Integrating Emergency Care with Population Health*, 13(5), 120-135.

This article focuses largely on the huge and increasingly amount of deaths as a result of prescription opioid abuse, which is great background information for a discussion of the problem. Due to how often opioid overdoses and deaths occur, this is a good way to instill the need for opioid education and other solutions to the problem. The end of the article mentions solutions such as creating more treatment centers for opioid abusers, using Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), and eliminating institutions that distribute prescription medications illegally.

This summary explains the main point and specific elements within the text.

* **2-3 sentences about how the source has informed your possible topic thus far.** This is not the same as saying *how* you intend to use the source. Instead, I’m asking for you to explain what you’ve *learned* about your topic from this article, and how it is influencing your thinking. This is a good place to include whether you see this source connecting to another source you’ve found, what you want to know more about, etc.

I found the article challenging to follow, but I was intrigued by how Chakravarthy, Shah, and Lotfipour illustrate the need for multiple strategies, none of which is particularly effective on its own. It also shows how the medical industry is not able to self-regulate, which is central to my proposal.

* **1-2 sentences about who the writer(s) is/are.** What constructs their authority? For the scholarly sources, what’s the significance of the research; that is, has it been cited by others? Have the authors published frequently? What’s the publication’s focus and reputation? If it is a book, what’s the publisher’s reputation, and how was the book reviewed? For the popular sources, have the authors published extensively? Are they considered experts by others in their field? You don’t need their entire C.V./resume—just enough to show you understand the author’s expertise.

Chakravarthy was at Johns Hopkins University when this article is published; he is now a political science professor at Harvard. *Political Research Quarterly* is a leading peer-reviewed journal in the field.

Summary

The summary will explain why you are interested in this topic, and what your research (from the annotated bibliography) is telling you so far. Think of it this summary as a way of figuring out your argument—you’re trying to make connections among your sources, explain potential topics, and head off dead ends. The summary will address the following questions:

* What’s your motivation for researching this potential topic? What do you find compelling, interesting, surprising—in other words, why do you think this topic is worth learning more about?
* What are potential arguments are you seeing across some or most of your texts? That is, what are scholars and writers talking about? What’s the conversation or conversations happening right now?
* What next? What do you want—or need--to know more about?

The summaryshould be roughly 500 words; shorter or longer is fine provided you explain the questions above specifically and thoroughly. Cite your sources in text; since they will overlap with the annotated bibliography, there is no need for an additional Works Cited or References page. You do not have to cite all of the sources you’ve found in the annotated bibliography in the summary, butdo aim to reference at least half.

Some Do’s:

* Evaluate sources carefully. Popular sources should be recognizable publications (anything from major newspapers to food magazine or well-established pop culture web sites). Scholarly articles should be peer-reviewed (that is, *not book reviews or editorials found in scholarly journals*); scholarly books may be either full books or anthologies of essays and articles, published within a certain field, and aimed at fellow scholars. Books should not be self-published by the author. When it doubt, Google the publisher.
* List the sources in alphabetical order—just like a References page
* Single-space.
* Format everything APA (header, pages, citations).
* Print double-sided, if you can.
* Staple.

And a Few Don’ts:

* Don’t use sources you haven’t actually examined closely—like those you request via WRLC or ILL that have not yet arrived by the time the assignment is due. If you don’t have the text in front of you, don’t use it for this assignment.
* Don’t use the abstracts alone to judge your peer-reviewed sources. Critically read and analyze the sources before you decide to include them. (But let’s be honest: you often do not need to read every word, especially for peer-reviewed studies.)
* Don’t use the abstracts as your annotations. That’s blatant, undeniable plagiarism
* Don’t list a source that is of no use to you. If you’ve read it and you think it has no value whatsoever—for example, you don’t learn anything new and plan to write that for your answer to the third part of the annotation—find another source.

The annotated bibliography will be graded on the quality of the annotations and summary, as well as the correctness of form and mechanics. All requirements must be met for full credit. See the rubric attached.

You may have a tentative thesis at the end of the annotated bibliography, but you should be open to revising it. Your project will evolve considerably over the rest of the semester. Your topic may transform as you find different arguments and more research; your opinions may change; you may discover a field of research that is totally new to you. Remember that it is okay to not be an expert in your topic right now. You are learning how to teach yourself. You may end up not using several of the sources you find for your annotated bibliography in the final paper. Research is a fluid, ever-changing process, just like writing. At some point your thinking will make a leap; you will realize something that you had never considered before. That is when the work pays off and the process can even become fun.

**Summary and Annotated Bibliography Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Focus** | **Informing topic** | **Expertise and Credibility** | **Points** |
| **Source 1**  **Citation correct?**  Y ☐ N ☐ | * Outstanding (5 pts) * Good (4) * Satisfactory (3) * Unsatisfactory (0-2) | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | \_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points |
| **Source 2**  **Citation correct?**  Y ☐ N ☐ | * Outstanding (5 pts) * Good (4) * Satisfactory (3) * Unsatisfactory (0-2) | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | \_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points |
| **Source 3**  **Citation correct**  Y ☐ N ☐ | * Outstanding (5 pts) * Good (4) * Satisfactory (3) * Unsatisfactory (0-2) | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | \_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points |
| **Source 4**  **Citation correct?**  Y ☐ N ☐ | * Outstanding (5 pts) * Good (4) * Satisfactory (3) * Unsatisfactory (0-2) | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | \_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points |
| **Source 5**  **Citation correct?**  Y ☐ N ☐ | * Outstanding (5 pts) * Good (4) * Satisfactory (3) * Unsatisfactory (0-2) | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | \_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points |
| **Source 6**  **Citation correct?**  Y ☐ N ☐ | * Outstanding (5 pts) * Good (4) * Satisfactory (3) * Unsatisfactory (0-2) | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | * Outstanding * Good * Satisfactory * Unsatisfactory | \_\_\_\_\_\_/15 points |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Summary: \_\_\_\_/15  Sources: \_\_\_\_/90  Total: \_\_\_\_\_/105 | ***Points:***   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *A: 93-100*  *A-: 90-92*  *B+: 87-89*  *B: 83-86*  *B-: 80-82* | *C+: 77-79*  *C: 73-76*  *C-: 70-72*  *D: 63-69*  *F: Below 63* | |