

Senior Research Paper

Each student will be required to complete a 4-6 page fully documented research paper which examines some aspect of global, national, state, or local issue and how economics plays an important role in that issue. The research paper is required to be supported by utilizing at least four sources, at least one of which needs to be a non-internet source. Any internet source must be from a legitimate database. The format of the research paper should be in the MLA writing style and the paper should contain internal citations as well as a works cited page. The assignment will be broken into three parts. The first portion will be a formal one page topic proposal. The second portion of the assignment will be an annotated bibliography of the sources to be used in the paper. The final portion of the assignment will be the completed paper and will be due before the end of the second quarter, the end of January.

How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography

WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

ANNOTATIONS VS. ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are the purely descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression, and authority.

THE PROCESS

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

Cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style.

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

CHOOSING THE CORRECT FORMAT FOR THE CITATIONS

The format for all citations should be in the MLA format.

SAMPLE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE

The following example uses the APA format for the journal citation. NOTE: APA requires double spacing within citations.

Waite, L. J., Goldschneider, F. K., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review*, 51 (4), 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.

This example uses the MLA format for the journal citation. NOTE: Standard MLA practice requires double spacing within citations.

Waite, Linda J., Frances Kobrin Goldscheider, and Christina Witsberger. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review* 51.4 (1986): 541-554. Print.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.

Research Paper Topics

School Issues

Merit Pay for Teachers
Tenure
School Budgets
Athletics Funding
Fund Raising
School Lunches
Professional Development for Teachers
Private vs. Public Schools

Community Issues

Crime rates
Zoning regulations
Shelters for the homeless
Commercial development
Sale of sexually explicit materials
Smoking in public places
Preserving historic buildings
Educational funding
Attracting jobs
Environmental issues: water, animals, sewage, power
State Issues
Loss of jobs
Tax policies
Mental Health Care
Care of the elderly
Overcrowding in the jails
Capital punishment
Funding for abortions
Changing the speed limit
Changing the legal drinking age
Legalization of marijuana
Tolls on bridges and parkways
Licenses for boaters

National Issues

Civil liberties
Import quotas
Budget deficits
Controlling drug traffic
Medical costs
Military draft
National defense spending
Restrictive immigration quotas
Spending for social programs

Global Issues

Famine
Acid rain
Arms race in space
Population control

The preservation of endangered species
Aid to underdeveloped countries
China and human rights
Balance of trade with Japan

Family Issues

Availability of day care centers
Divorce
Rights of children
Children with aids
Abuse of children and the elderly
"Latch Key" children
Eating disorders
Children with disabilities
Child neglect
Drug and alcohol abuse