

EXPLORING SOCIAL ISSUES: Annotated Bibliography Assignment

Date Assigned: **Friday, October 25, 2019**

Annotated Bibliography due **Friday, November 22, 2019** via turnitin.com

Presentations begin **Monday, November 18, 2019**

The FIRST big question: *Why do we have to do a research project?*

- (1) Art and literature can inspire and entertain, but these works also provide a lens through which we can better understand the human condition or examine relevant social and cultural issues. In *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury issues a warning about the possible implications of a society where censorship is rampant and people isolate themselves through technology. We will dig deeper into these (and other) warnings raised in literature, thereby becoming more informed about the world in which we live.
- (2) The benefits of becoming a solid researcher are two-fold: (1) You will perform well as a student; after all, research is required in nearly every class. And (2) you will be an informed citizen in the real world—long after academic classes have ended. Regardless of research's purpose, the researcher builds knowledge (*smart* is always good!), detects bias (becoming a better-informed consumer of information), and determines truths and lies (because, no, *Wikipedia* isn't a reliable source). Whether you are making a point in a political science class or informing an uninformed individual on Facebook, research makes you more credible.

For this assignment, you will research a social issue related to our reading of *Fahrenheit 451* (or of your choice), write an annotated bibliography, and deliver a presentation of your findings to the class. Here's the good news: *There is no full-scale research paper!*

Process:

1. Choose a relevant social issue and develop a focused research agenda. For example, if your topic is political elections, a good research question might be *Is the electoral college the best system to ensure the will of the people is enacted through the election process?*
2. Gather reliable and scholarly sources about the issue you selected to use for your research: websites ending in **.edu** and **.gov**; books; and peer-reviewed/scholarly articles such as those found via Galileo, Google Scholar, etc. Initially, you should compile a list of 6-8 potential sources because, once you "dig into" them, you may learn that some of your sources do not meet the criteria and/or are not credible.
3. Evaluate the credibility of the sources. You will receive a template to help you do this (as well as compile other information about your sources). Ultimately, you will need at least four sources for your final product.
4. Create an Annotated Bibliography that (for each source) includes:
 - a. an **MLA citation** for the source;
 - b. a **Summary** of the source and an **Explanation** of the purpose of the source;
 - c. a **Reflection** regarding how the source is useful and/or connected to your research; and
 - d. an **Assessment** of the source's credibility
5. Design a ***synthesized*** presentation that will help you report your research findings.
6. Turn in your finalized Annotated Bibliography via turnitin.com and present your findings!

The **SECOND** big question: *What is an Annotated Bibliography?*

Breaking it down: A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used to research a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "References" or "Works Cited," depending on the style (e.g., MLA, APA) format you are using. In this class, we will use **MLA**, which refers to bibliographies as Works Cited.

Typically, a bibliography simply includes the bibliographic information (e.g., the author, title, publisher, etc.); however, an **annotated bibliography** also includes an annotation for each source. An **annotation** is a written summary of, reflection on, and assessment of the source.

- **Summary & Explanation:** What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? What is the purpose of this source (e.g., explain, inform, describe, persuade)?
- **Reflection:** Once you've summarized and explained a source, reflect on how it fits into your research. How does it further illuminate your overall research topic? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic? Why is this particular source valuable in relation to the questions you seek to answer through your research?
- **Assessment:** After summarizing a source and reflecting on its value to your project, you should assess its credibility.

At the minimum, your bibliography must include FOUR credible resources.

- **Examples:** books, newspapers, magazines, interviews, websites, articles from scholarly journals, documentaries
- DO NOT USE Wikipedia or online encyclopedias (you can, of course, use these to gain background information)
- DO NOT USE sources that are more than five years old (i.e., created before 2013)
- DO NOT USE timelines or bulleted information as a source (you can, of course, use these to gain background information)

Final Product Requirements:

- **Annotated Bibliography:** This is a bibliographic list of your sources where each source is accompanied by an annotation. Think Works Cited + annotation. You will need to turn in your Annotated Bibliography to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) **by Friday, November 22.**
- **Presentation:** Using an electronic presentation platform (Glogster, Prezi, PowerPoint, Sway, etc), you will give a presentation (**4-5 minutes**) to the class to report your findings. This is where you draw on the research you've done to communicate to the class the progress you've made toward answering your research question. ***This is not a source-by-source presentation; it should be synthesized.***

The **THIRD** big question: *What are my research topic choices?*

Here is an approved list of *broad* topics from which you can choose (you will have to narrow to something more specific). You can also choose a different *approved* topic. Your first step will be to share with me three potential research topics and, together, we will select the best one for you.

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| • Prescription drug addiction | • Law enforcement |
| • Happiness | • Commercialized religion |
| • Suicide | • Reliance on/overuse of technology and/or social media |
| • Depression | • Parenting |
| • Censorship | • Media violence (TV, movies, video games, etc.) |
| • Violence among teens and adolescents | • Advertising and commercials |
| • Vandalism and juvenile delinquency | • Materialism/ need to own material goods |
| • Reality TV | |

The **FOURTH** big question: *How will you be grading this project?*

I have posted rubrics on the class website.

The **FIFTH** big question: *What does the timeline of this project look like?*

CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
October 21: <i>F451</i>	October 22: <i>F451 Quiz</i>	October 23: <i>F451</i>	October 24: <i>F451</i>	October 25: - Annotated Bibliography assigned - Select Research Topic/Question due Monday
October 28: - Potential research topics and questions due (conference with Carr) <i>-F451</i>	October 29: <i>Research Strategies</i> with Ms. Lee – bring a fully charged device! DO NOT BE ABSENT	October 30: - Research Presentation - Assessing Credibility - Research or Reading Day Four sources due November 6	October 31: <i>-F451 (Part 2) QA</i> - Research or Reading (any time remaining)  Happy Halloween!	November 1: - Warm-Ups Due <i>-F451 (Part 2) Quiz</i>
November 4: Research or Reading Day	November 5: Election Day: No School!	November 6: - MLA documentation - Review student sample - Research or Reading Day One completed annotation due in turnitin.com by end of class on Friday	November 7: Research or Reading Day	November 8: Research or Reading Day One completed annotation due in turnitin.com by end of class
November 11: - How to Present Your Research - Research or Reading Day	November 12: Research or Reading Day	November 13: <i>-F451 Review</i> - Research or Reading (any time remaining)	November 14: <i>F451 Final Assessment</i>	November 15: <i>-F451 Final Assessment Make-Ups</i> - Final Research Day
November 18: Research Presentations	November 19: Research Presentations	November 20: Research Presentations	November 21: Research Presentations	November 22: Any final presentations, if necessary (hopefully not!)
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!!!				

NOTE: The dates on the above calendar are subject to change. Research days will be provided as long as you use them wisely. You should expect to do significant work on this project outside of class.