

Bibliographic Essay

Length: 4-5 pages

1- (rough draft) due Friday.

2- (final) due Tuesday.

Sources: 1 primary source, if applicable; 5-7 secondary sources

Directions: First, using correct MLA format, create an annotated bibliography for your sources. This will consist of a Works Cited entry for each source, followed by a 3-5 sentence summary of the source's main claim and methodology and your analysis of why and how it is relevant to your research topic. For example, you might summarize an article from a zoology journal that studies the social dynamics of all-female lizard communities using behavioral economics, then explain that this study is relevant to your research on single-sex education because it reveals some of the ways in which female lizards are more successful hunters in a single-sex community. (N.B. I have no idea whether this is true; I'm using a completely hypothetical example here.)

The second part of the assignment, the bibliographic essay, is where you will discuss how your sources go together. Here you will consider how the sources' arguments, methods, and findings speak to each other (or don't) and how that carves out a space in which you can construct your own research-based argument about your topic. You may come to a conclusion about the relationship between the different sources here (for example, you might find that women's studies scholarship tends to characterize a certain problem one way while behavioral psychology tends to characterize it a different way), but since you have written your essay yet, you are not yet coming to a conclusion about your topic.

Criteria for grading: correct and complete MLA bibliographic entries; concise and informative annotations that both summarize the source and explain its relevance; essay portion that successfully explains the relationship between the sources and how that delineates the parameters of your research topic; clear writing free of major mechanical errors.