

Draft/Final Report

Individual Research Project

Project Objective

Students will demonstrate proficiency in Intended Learning Outcome #2: identify, evaluate, and utilize a variety of academic sources.

Brief Project Overview

For the Individual Project, you will identify a specific topic related to one of the texts in the course. You will locate a primary source the author of the book cited. You will then take this to the next step and find additional popular and academic sources. For the project you may use a variety of sources including at least two peer-reviewed original research which will allow you to explore the topic more deeply.

You may want to reference the library assignment as you will again be required to (1) search for and locate sources as well as (2) evaluate sources. Your final paper should clearly reference/cite the sources you have located, include your evaluation of both the quality and validity of the source, and how each reference contributes to your thesis.

Draft/Final Report

Your report should be a thoughtful, concise, polished, document of no more than 3000 words.

- Project Draft Due Monday 12/4 (you can submit this anytime; if submitted before 12/4 you will receive feedback within 24 hours)
- Final Project Due Monday 12/11. For the Final report you will upload a pdf document to moodle by 11pm.

Guidelines

- Clearly provide motivation for your paper, and a statement of your objective/purpose/thesis.
- Explicitly identify a claim/thesis that you will support with evidence and place your work in the greater context of the question you are posing.
- Describe how the sources you have located provide evidence to help answer your research question(s). Here you can draw on your annotated appendix to (1) provide summaries of main points of your sources, (2) evaluate the source's credibility, reliability, and quality, (3) discuss the relevance of the source to the

research topic and (4) explain how the source contributes to the understanding of the subject by providing a unique perspective or valuable insights.

- Discuss possible implications of your research in the context of the research question describing how your references fit into the broader context of the research.
- Make a statement regarding potential omission/alternate views and identify any limitations of your study. Discuss the potential impact of biases and limitations on the conclusions.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of your research.
- Have a clear conclusion.
- Anticipate questions someone might have after reading your report, and make sure those questions can be answered with information in the body of the text.
- A citation for each reference article (in consistent format – APA format or something similar) you included in your proposal. Also include a link to the full source. Remember that you must have the entire paper and not just an abstract.
- You will cite at least 5 sources – one referenced in a course text, at least two sources must be from peer-reviewed journals.

Project Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

Thesis/Research Question

Your project will build on a topic from one of the class texts. The format of the paper is largely open ended. You can imagine writing a proposal for a research project, in which case what you submit will be the literature review in support of your proposed research. You could write a position paper where you argue for or against a specific perspective. **In your proposal you should clearly define the nature and scope of your paper.**

Annotated Bibliography

For each source you locate include the following.

Citation: Each entry includes a complete citation. This includes the author's name, title of the work, publication date, publisher, and other relevant details. You will also include the DOI to the full source or the permalink from Catalist. (I should be able to locate the source with one click.)

Annotation: A concise paragraph that summarizes, evaluates, and reflects on the content of the source. It may include information on the methodology, main arguments,

key findings, and the author's perspective. The annotation should also address the source's relevance to the research topic.

- Provided a brief summary of the main points and arguments presented in the source. This summary helps the reader understand the content of the work without having to read the entire source.
- Includes an evaluation of the source's credibility, reliability, and quality. This may involve assessing the author's credentials, the publication venue, the research methods used, and the overall objectivity of the work.
- Discusses the relevance of the source to the research topic. Explain how the source contributes to the understanding of the subject and whether it provides a unique perspective or valuable insights.
- Additionally include your thoughts on how the source fits into the broader context of the research, any biases present, and its potential limitations.