

## **Annotated Bibliography: 100 points**

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**Length: 5 annotations, each 150-250 words**

### **Due: with Film Analysis**

For the film analysis assignment, you will be responsible for directing your own research. Now you will begin exploring sources you locate in greater depth, reading them carefully and accurately, summarizing their contents, and evaluating those contents within the context of your own research project, which might include information on the Victorian Era, Film Theory and Criticism, Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and the film of the same name directed by Oliver Parker. You will be compiling an annotated bibliography—a formal product of that research—that demonstrates you are learning four skills that will be very important to your college success:

- directing your own research.
- reading and understanding academic prose, and recasting it in your own words (summarizing).
- evaluating complex arguments, differentiating among their central points, strengths and weaknesses, and developing your own conclusions about them.
- learning how to use a handbook or style guide to look up conventions of documentation within a given discipline.

### **Assignment:**

An annotated bibliography can be summative, evaluative, critical, etc. This assignment asks you to produce both **summative** and **evaluative** components. This means each annotation will include a short, but careful summary of the original text (75-125 words) and an evaluation of that text's usefulness to **your** project (75-125 words). Although there are many kinds of annotated bibliographies, produced for all fields of academic inquiry, this assignment asks that:

- the bibliography have a general descriptive title
- each annotation appears in alphabetical order, by last name of author
- the entries follow the conventions of MLA citation (both for the entry header and to cite and material in-text).
- each annotation has both a summative and evaluative component

### **Purpose**

Although it's probably clear why I think this is an important assignment (future academic success, blah, blah, blah), I also think this is a useful assignment for you because your film analysis is a project based on this research, so by the time you have finished this assignment, you will know a lot about your topic. It will be much easier for you to write your paper as your sources will already be organized, and you even have paraphrases/summaries of the material to draw from for your paper!

**GUIDELINES FOR SUMMATIVE ANNOTATIONS**  
**(Paragraph One of Annotated Bibliography Assignment)**

1. Use the correct, double-checked MLA documentation as a title prior to each entry. Use Ch. 13 “Working with Sources” for most MLA documentation guidelines.
2. Identify the author's argument immediately in paragraph 1. Your reader needs to know the main point and the argument's focus immediately.
3. Include all main points and any minor points given special emphasis.
4. Retain the logic and tone of the original argument.
5. Recast the original text into your own words and quote only words or **very** short phrases, if at all.
6. Do not include your own opinions of the argument, the issue, or the writing in the summary. (Save these for the second paragraph.)
7. Work for cohesion. The author's organization of the material may not work or make sense in your shorter summary. You must make your annotation stand on its own, for a reader who may not have read the text you are summarizing.
8. Combine short sentences. Longer sentences can produce a smoother summary to read, and you will find that longer sentences include more information in fewer words than do several short, choppy sentences.

**GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATIVE ANNOTATIONS**  
**(Paragraph Two of Annotated Bibliography Assignment)**

- Provide a brief analysis of the appropriateness of this source to your topic and project (don't bother annotating useless sources)—so describe how this source will work with your topic and argument.
- Evaluate the source itself:
  - what is its point-of-view? How do you know?
  - is this a credible source? How do you know?
  - does it agree or disagree with other sources you have found?
  - does this provide insight into other areas of research you will need?

Because this assignment is working toward a larger project, the evaluative annotations are to help you decide what material may best help you make the argument you wish to make. You want to try to focus on how each source is clarifying/muddying your understanding of the topic.