

## **Creating A Scholarly Context: A Hybrid Literature Review/Annotated Bibliography**

**Writing Task:** List the 10 most significant sources for your topic and explain their significance.

Since your readers will expect you to frame your own argument in response to a larger scholarly context, you must, before you solidify your own thesis, get a sense of what that scholarly context is. A literature review is a summary of the most influential research done thus far on a specific topic. Typically it looks and sounds a lot like an essay about the scholarship available on a topic without actually saying anything new. An annotated bibliography, on the other hand, is a list of sources that the author plans to use, each with a summary of the source and an explanation of how the author hopes to use the source in his or her own essay. Annotated bibliographies, then, are more useful once the author has already familiarized him or herself with the broader scholarly context and has selected specific sources to include in his or her own work. A literature review is more just to get a sense for what's out there.

For the purposes of this assignment, a hybrid document somewhere in between these two academic genres will be the most useful for you. For homework, you are to research your topic and make a *list* of sources that reflect the most significant and influential sources you find. So the *formatting* will follow an annotated bibliography but the *content* will reflect a literature review.

Sources you list will fall under one of two categories:

- 1.) A source that has been cited a lot and seems to be a seminal work in the field. (i.e. you would look like an idiot if you didn't refer to it in your own essay).
- 2.) A source that is fairly new (in the last 5 years) and may not be very popular yet, but challenges previous scholarship in an interesting way. These may be sources that you find especially compelling despite their obscurity and may want to include in your own essay.

Tip: Look at the bibliographies of any source you find on the topic and see what that sources cites. Or compare several bibliographies to see if they have any sources in common.

### **For each entry, you will:**

- 1.) List the bibliographic information, formatted according to the citation system of your field.
- 2.) Summarize the argument of the source.
- 3.) Explain why the source is significant.
- 4.) List the # of times the source has been cited by others if you didn't already mention that in part 3. (See Google Scholar or Web of Science.)

**Due: Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Upload to assignment portal on Blackboard, under "Assignments."