Annotated Bibliographies

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources you’ve consulted to use for your project that give you an overall sense of the on-going conversation around your issue. Each entry includes citation information and descriptive commentary of the source. Your bibliography must include at least 8 potential sources to use for inquiry 3. Sources should reflect a deep digging into the conversation—do not just use the first sources that pop up on a Google search, or the first 8 sources you read. Instead, **use the sources that will have the greatest rhetorical effect on your reader**.

Each entry should:

1. Provide citation information (MLA or APA)

2. Summarize main argument/point of the source (usually in 3-4 sentences)

3. Describe the relevance of this source to your research argument. How will it serve your paper rhetorically? Will the source be used as background information? Does it offer a key counterargument? Will it provide as a main authority to back up your claims? How does it connect with the other sources within your bibliography? (usually in 3-4 sentences)

An annotation is usually one or two paragraphs. For example, this student is working on a paper about The Daily Show and its validity as a news source. Here is one annotation from her annotated bibliography:

Young, Donnagel G., and Russel M. Tisinger. “Dispelling Late-Night Myths: News

Consumption among Late-Night Comedy Viewers and the Predictors of

Exposure to Various Late-Night Shows.” Harvard International Journal of

Press/Politics 11 (2006): 113-34. Sage. Web. 19 December 2009.

Young and Tisinger consulted studies by the Pew Research Center and

Annenberg School for Communication to determine whether it is true that young

people get all of their news from The Daily Show. They also wanted to consider whether or not it is safe to assume that the late-night audience is a homogenous group or whether those watching, say, David Letterman’s show have characteristics different from those watching The Daily Show. They found that Stewart’s audience regularly receives information from both traditional network news programs and his show. Stewart’s audience also tends to be more politically informed than regular viewers of other programs.

This source will be useful because it relies on numerical data collected about The Daily Show’s audience. I’ve found many other sources that analyze the effects of the show, but this is the only one that tries to make sense of the various studies. The fact that viewers of the show tend to consult other news sources frequently is something I hadn’t considered. If I use this source in my final paper, it will help counter-argue Bill O’Reilly’s idea that That Daily Show’s audience is made up of “stoned slackers.”