

Paper 4 - Proposal/Annotated Bibliography

DUE: 6 November 2006

Length: 4-6 pages

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to move from working with a single text to working with multiple texts. You will explain a research question, including topic, academic discipline, what you're discovered through your research so far, and a plan for completing your research.

For Paper 4, you will propose a question, research and read scholarly articles on that question, report what you've learned, and produce an annotated bibliography. Your research question may be on any topic you choose, so long as it is one about which scholars write. If you are unsure what topic to research, you may choose a question related to higher education. Perhaps one of the essays we've read has sparked a question that you'd like to explore further; this is the perfect opportunity to do so. Your paper should include the following:

1. Framing the question

In your introduction, you should state the question that you will explore through research. Like the other papers you have written so far, this one should include some explanation of why this topic or question is important to you. In framing the question, you should explain what led you to the question: Was it something you read? An experience you had? Your introduction should also identify the academic discipline into which your question falls.

2. Research report

Your research should give you some idea of the "conversation" around the topic you are investigating. As part of your paper, you should explain what you've discovered about this conversation. What have you learned about people's attitudes toward your question? What are the various approaches scholars have taken in studying and attempting to answer the question? You should conclude your research report with an explanation of your plan for completing research on this question.

3. Annotated bibliography

A bibliography is a list of citations of books, articles, and other materials consulted in your research. In an annotated bibliography, the citation is followed by a brief (around 150 words) summary of the source and your evaluation of its value and relevance to your question. The sources in your annotated bibliography should be listed using the MLA format for Works Cited.

You should include at least five sources in your annotated bibliography; this means you will probably need to examine more than five sources. Select your sources from peer-reviewed scholarly journals. Your annotated bibliography should include at least one source that presents a point of view or set of conclusions that is in opposition to your own--i.e., you should include at least one source with which you disagree.

Format your paper according to MLA standards (see Allyn & Bacon p. 673-674). As always, you should adhere to the rules of Standard Written English. Edit and proofread your paper carefully before turning it in. Please staple your paper at the top left-hand corner **before coming to class**. Your paper is due at the beginning of class on Monday, 6 November 2006.