**Science Fair – Annotated Bibliography Guidelines**

**(Due November 23rd)**

*In this assignment you will be making a descriptive or informative annotated bibliography that has* ***a minimum of 10 sources*** *relating to your science fair topic.*

**Descriptive or informative annotated bibliography** - A descriptive or informative annotated bibliography describes or summarizes a source as does an abstract, it describes why the source is useful for researching a particular topic or question, its distinctive features. In addition, it describes the author's main arguments and conclusions without evaluating what the author says or concludes.

When writing your descriptive or informative annotated bibliography keep in mind the following:

* **Choose your sources:** Before writing your annotated bibliography, you must choose your sources. This involves doing research much like for any other project. Locate records to materials that may apply to your topic.
* **Review the items:** Then review the actual items and choose those that provide a wide variety of perspectives on your topic. Article abstracts are helpful in this process.
* **Write the citation and annotation:** When writing your annotation, the complete citation should always come first and the annotation follows.
	+ You will want to include the following in your annotation.
1. **The purpose of the work**
2. **A summary of its content**
3. **For what type of audience the work is written**
4. **Its relevance to the topic**
5. **Any special or unique features about the material**

There are certain rules you must follow in order to complete the assignment successfully:

* **Alphabetize** the list by author’s last name.
* Each resource must have a 100 – 150 words for each annotation
* Format the list according to **MLA guidelines.** (See below links below for help with MLA citation)
	+ The [MLA page](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/) at the Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab)
	+ The [MLA page](http://research.wou.edu/mla) at Western Oregon University
	+ The [MLA guide](http://library.highline.edu/reference/snippets/mla) from Highline Community College (PDF)

Bibliography

A bibliography is an alphabetical list of sources (books, articles, documents, reports, interviews, websites, non-print materials, etc.) at the end of a written work to which the author referred in his research. Bibliographies can also be referred to as “References” or “Works Cited.” A standard bibliography includes the citation information for the sources: author(s), date of publication, title and publisher’s name and location (for articles, the citation information also includes journal title, volume, issue and page numbers). A primary purpose of a bibliography is to help the reader find the sources mentioned in the author’s research work.

Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography adds to the basic citation by including descriptive and evaluative information regarding the cited work. The brief (usually under 150 words) commentary provides the reader with critical judgments about the cited work including its relevancy, accuracy and quality. The annotation attempts to give enough critical information to the reader to provide a foundation for further research.

Purpose of the Annotated Bibliography

Whether an annotated bibliography concludes an article or book, or is itself a comprehensive, book length listing of sources, its purposes include, but are not limited to, the following: to illustrate the scope and quality of the research the author has done; to review the literature published on a particular subject; to provide the reader with supplementary, illustrative or alternative sources; to allow the reader to see if a particular source was consulted; to place the research in an historical context.

Abstracts vs. Annotations

Abstracts are descriptive summaries of the main points of a work, often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles. Many online databases provide abstracts for the articles indexed in the database. Annotations are critical and descriptive summaries that expose the author’s point of view, clarity, appropriateness of expression and authority

Composing the Annotated Bibliography

Locate and record citations to the research items that may contain useful information on your topic. Consider the scope of research and decide what types of sources (books, articles, primary documents, web sites, non-print materials) will be included. Evaluate retrieved sources by reading them and noting your findings and impressions. Once your final group of sources has been selected, give full citation data according to the bibliographic style prescribed by your instructor