

Annotated Bibliography

Now that you've done some writing about your communities, it's time to start investigating one that you'll focus on for the rest of the semester. In this second project, you'll track down 6-8 "texts" related to your community and compose 2-3 paragraph annotations about each source.

We're considering "texts" broadly here, as the goal is to get a sense of how your group is represented or talked about by a variety of sources. As such, "text" can mean anything from a YouTube video to a pop song, a short story to a scholarly article, an art exhibit to a TV series. I encourage you to cast the net wide to get a broad range of perspectives.

You will be required to find sources from at least 3 different types of media. So, for example, you might have: 2 short stories, 3 pop songs, and a movie; or, a short story, an article from *The Atlantic*, 2 blog posts, a YouTube videos, and a podcast.

Below is an example of an "annotation" – it includes a full bibliographic citation (formatted in MLA style) and a paragraph offering a brief summary of this book's argument. If I were annotating an article, I would do the same thing. For a video or visual text, I would offer a brief description of the text's elements or storyline and summary of its message, then offer my analysis of the material.

- Sierz, Aleks. *In-Yer-Face Theatre: British Drama Today*. London: Faber & Faber, 2000. Print.
 - British theatre critic and scholar Aleks Sierz sets out to document and investigate what he sees as a unique moment in British theatre: the "In-Yer-Face" movement of the 1990s. Sierz argues that these plays transformed the language of British theatre, "making it more direct, raw and explicit." Sierz discusses playwrights such as Sarah Kane (*Blasted*), Patrick Marber (*Closer*), and Martin McDonagh (*Beauty Queen of Leenane*). He argues that the theatre emerging in this period was not merely a theatre of shock tactics, but a theatre of sensation: "questioning moral norms, it affronts the ruling ideas of what can or should be shown onstage."

In-Yer-Face theatre denies audiences the possibility of complacent witnessing, it shocks, jolts, disturbs, and most importantly gets under the skin. This type of theatre generally relies on obscene language, unmentionable subjects, nudity, humiliation, discomfort and violence. These plays shock, provoke and outrage their audiences. The plays that Seirz discusses do more than this, however, they also offer stringent critiques of the postmodern condition and contemporary problems of violence, masculinity, feminism and consumerism.

While the example above explains a scholarly book about a particular genre of theatre, for your project, the goal of the annotations is to glean the key characteristics of the group as represented by the author. Many of your sources may not be as explicit in their description or definition of the group. For example, if you were to use ABC's *Modern Family* as a source for a paper about being part of a family, you would briefly explain the premise of the show and then analyze the ways it represents family. What are the constants between the families? How does it reinforce or disrupt notions of family or parenthood?

In your annotations, you should therefore be both summarizing and analyzing the text. The goal isn't to offer an exhaustive summary (especially if it's a whole book or movie or TV series) but rather to give the reader the gist of the material/story and to explain the way it represents the group. Cite specific examples (i.e. provide evidence for your analysis), and include quotes that capture the author's tone/voice.

Your audience for this project is an interested but uninformed reader. Assume I have never seen or heard or read the thing you are talking about. What information do I need to get a reasonable sense of the source?

The annotated bibliography itself should be a Word document or .pdf, but I would also like you to create a portfolio to house any materials that are digitally accessible. You'll then put the document in the portfolio and submit the whole portfolio to the assignment tab in Pathbrite.

To meet the contract expectations, this project must:

- Include 6-8 sources with 2-3 paragraph descriptions/analysis of each source
 - I'm not including word count because some sources will have more material to analyze than others. Just use your judgment and understand that annotations should be substantive without going overboard. General rules of thumb would be to not write much more than half a page for each and to try not to exceed 5 pages total (single-spaced), but that you should probably hit the bottom of page 3 if you're being thorough.
- Include 3 different types of source (in terms of either genre or media)
- Use appropriate paragraphing, grammar, and spelling; be free of egregious typos.
- The bibliography itself must be submitted as a Word document or .pdf, and the citations should be in MLA style.
- The bibliography and any digital materials should be compiled in their own Pathbrite portfolio, and the portfolio must be submitted by the start of class on the due date.

*****Your first annotation is due for peer review by 9:00 pm on Monday, October 19th (uploaded to Moodle).**

- You will then complete three peer reviews of your classmates' annotations in lieu of class on the 20th. The peer review workshop in Moodle will be open/available between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm on the 20th.
- Failure to submit your annotation on time or to complete the peer reviews will both count as an absence and as a missed assignment.

The complete bibliography is due Tuesday, October 27th.