

Finding the Best Articles Annotation Assignment



We will spend a class period in the library generating a list of articles of interest to the class. Before going to the library, we will decide on a topic of interest. At the library, with the help of a librarian, we will find a variety of sources. The period following our library visit will be spent “weeding” our selections, discussing quality criteria from a disciplinary perspective.**

Your assignment will be to use the criteria we devised to select one scholarly article on a subject with relevance to our course and of particular interest to you, and to write an annotation of it. The annotations will be graded and the best annotations will be placed on the course web site.

Concepts

- There are many different sources of information which take different approaches to the same topic.
- Finding good sources involves making good choices.
- Quality is determined within disciplinary frameworks and traditions.

Skills

- Using databases to find articles
- Choosing search terms
- Locating scholarly articles
- Skimming
- Recognizing quality indicators in sources
- Documenting sources
- Writing critical annotations

You will be expected to follow up with the librarian outside of class for individual help.

Optional: You will also be responsible for getting help in the Writing Center with grammar so you can write a polished two-page paper.

Turn in a copy of your articles with your paper. Use a highlighter to highlight the portions of the scholarly article you discuss in your paper.

****Note:** If you have a large class, a librarian can visit your classroom and show students how to find articles on your topic of interest. The assignment can also be staggered so that only a fraction of the class evaluates the articles and completes annotations at one time.

Adapted by Deleyne Wentz from “Suggestions For Assignments” from Gustavus Adolphus College, part of their Enhancing Developmental Research Skills in the Undergraduate Curriculum, A Project Supported by an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant.

<http://gustavus.edu/academics/library/IMLS/assignmentsuggestions.html>

