

Literature Preview/Annotated Bibliography

STANDARD THIS ADDRESSES

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of task, purpose, and audience.

The next step in learning about your topic is using high-quality sources. This “Literature Preview” assignment is intended to help you evaluate sources as you learn more about your topic.

While a bibliography usually just includes source information, this Literature Preview includes a list of citations and a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph explaining specifically why this source is a good one for your topic. Inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Summarize, assess, and reflect. You are not expected to read things entirely to do this—but I do expect you to go beyond online reviews and profiles of things. Skim books and read section headings to see what might fit and why. Ideally you will go beyond the obvious to pick

sources that address a variety of subtopics and perspectives on your topic to add breadth to your written work. **Please realize that in doing this, you need to find a number of sources and sift through them to then preview the best five you have found so far.**



THE FOLLOWING **PREVIEW** HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
ALL AUDIENCES

Listed below are a few questions to guide you in writing the reflective paragraphs:

Summarize: What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?

Assess: Why is it a good and valid resource? When was it written? Who wrote it?

Reflect: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. How can you use this source in your research project? How has it changed how you think about your topic? What subtopics does it address?

Expectations

- Proper MLA citations (check library website for help, double space and indent 2-line entries, alphabetize)
- Five relevant sources that address a variety of aspects of the topic
- A clear paragraph for each article highlighting key information and explaining its value
- Minimal spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors
- Typed, single-spaced summaries
- All sources for this “lit preview” must be print. That means that while films, TV shows, songs and interviews will be helpful sources, they cannot be covered as part of this assignment.

Note: If a web source references another article, you should go and find that article, especially if it best addresses your topic. You should look for a variety of sources—and know that while Internet research is valuable, so are primary sources. Books offer breadth that cannot be captured in quick snippets. So look for them.