**Unit 2 Project: The Reflective Annotated Bibliography**

**Good Trouble**

**(1800 words or more)**

In “A Talk to Teachers” (1963), Baldwin writes that “the purpose of education, finally, is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for himself, to make his own decisions, to say to himself this is black or this is white, to decide for himself whether there is a God in heaven or not. To ask questions of the universe, and then learn to live with those questions, is the way he achieves his own identity” (1). And in his 2019 CCNY Speech, Congressman John Lewis urges us to find our own “good trouble.” In a commencement speech he delivered in Atlanta in 2020, he declared, “You must find a way to get in the way. You must find a way to get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble. Use what you have … to help make our country and make our world a better place, where no one will be left out or left behind. ... It is your time.”

Unit 2 asks you to put together a Reflective Annotated Bibliography on your own “good trouble,” on a topic about which you are passionate. Choose a current issue—local, national, or international-- one that you wish to find out more about, and one that you will write about for our final writing project, Unit 3. You may focus on a local New York issue, or one of national or international significance. Broad topics to tackle (that would need to be narrowed down to your particular interest): distance learning, pandemic realities, essential workers, K-12 education, CUNY, gentrification in a particular neighborhood, bike lanes, affordable housing, the state of the subway, monuments, LGBTQ spaces, the parks system, the presidential election, current social movements e.g. Black Lives Matter. You will be choosing a topic, evaluating and responding to the sources that already exist on this topic, and adding your own voice to the conversation.

As you know, a bibliography is a list of sources that one consults in a research process. A Reflective Annotated Bibliography (RAB) includes more information about each source: a summary of its main ideas, selected representative quotations; context about its publication venue and intended audience; assessment of source credibility; your response to it and how it might be useful for your project. Once you decide on a topic to investigate, you will want to compile a list of 4 sources in a variety of print and non-print genres: newspaper and journal articles, interviews, documentaries, songs, poems, government reports, etc.

RAB Components:

* Introduction (300 words)
  + Introduce your topic and why it interests you, what you wish to find out more about
* Alphabetical list of 4 sources, each with a bibliographic entry (300 words each)
  + Summary of source content
  + 2-3 key quotes (include citation info) that are representative of major ideas (these do not count toward the word count total)
  + Rhetorical analysis of the source (author’s writing style, genre, purpose/ intended audience, and credibility)
  + Your reflection on the source, including your opinion on the content (here you distinguish your own ideas from those of the author/artist) and why you chose to include it
* Conclusion (300 words)
  + Reflect on the sources you have identified and brought together, and explain how your own thinking or approach to the topic has expanded or changed
  + Address why this new knowledge is important
  + Identify a potential audience for your ideas and consider which genre would be most appropriate to express them

Assignment Steps:

1. Determine your research topic, based on something about which you are passionate and wish to learn more
2. Review your topic with professor, for approval
3. Begin researching your topic. From the many sources you find, narrow it down to the four most interesting and worthwhile. Be sure you have a mix of genres with which to work
4. Read and annotate these sources to flesh out your bibliography entries
5. Write the introduction and conclusion
6. Revise and proofread

Evaluation Criteria Checklist

* Reflection should be readable, informative, and thorough and give a clear sense of both the author’s ideas and your own
* Sources should be varied in content
* Sources should be varied in genre
* Formatting should be clear, with attention to visual organization
* Citations should follow MLA format
* Clear sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation