Essay 3: Part 1: Annotated Bibliography and Part 2: New York City Research Paper

Prof. Sean Scanlan, spring 2014, Composition 1

Part 1: The Annotated Bibliography:

This assignment, the Annotated Bibliography will prepare us to write the final essay of the semester: the New York City Research Paper. In order to write a successful research paper, you will need to come up with a subject, specific questions that you want to answer, and, of course, a thesis. In addition, you will need to spend a considerable amount of time reading about your subject; the hours that you spend will be both exhilarating and frustrating. Research is hard! But, it is also rewarding.

Research writing gives you a chance to be a detective solving a case. The mystery is the answer to a question about which you care. The search for the answer leads you to engage with other people who also care about that subject. And, ultimately, you too become an expert in your own right.

The annotated bibliography is a storage place for your sources. Each time you find a new source, such as a book, website, journal, or newspaper article, you must record its vital information. Then, underneath this vital information—the citation—you need to write a brief summary so that you know what the source is about.

Possible Topics:

1. The topic must be about a physical place and the people and organizations that either built it, destroyed it, or changed it in some way. The place must be within New York City.

2. It must be original—not copied.

3. It must be documented.

4. I must approve it.

5. Your provisional thesis must involve a “how” question (you can change it later). For example, this question is too big: what is the history of New York City? A better question: how did the Brooklyn Bridge change the economic relationship between Brooklyn and Manhattan? Or, how did the team of Washington Roebling and his wife Emily successfully complete that most complex and largest bridge in the world, even though Washington was disabled by the “bends” and Emily had to overcome strong misogyny? Another “too big” example: what is the history of Prospect Park? A better question: how did the designers of Prospect Park (Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux) decide on its shape and features?

Specifics:

1. Your annotated bibliography must have at least 7 different legitimate, useful sources.

2. You must have a balance of sources: 2 books, 2 web sources, 1 scholarly journal article, 1 newspaper articles, and 1 primary resource (interview). These are the minimum requirements. You may go beyond these numbers.

3. Your annotated bibliography must be alphabetized.

4. It must be formatted correctly: MLA citation followed by a short paragraph summary (a. Author’s thesis, b. Author’s conclusion, c. How you think the source may be helpful in your research (new))

5. Approximate length: 2-3 pages, depending upon spacing. You may use 1.5 spacing for the annotations and skip a space between entries.

Example:

Graham, Barbara. “The Future of Love.” *Utne Reader*. Utne Reader, Nov/Dec 1996. Web. 4 Nov 2010.

In her article “The Future of Love,” Barbara Graham describes how our unrealistic expectations about passionate love can lead to a troubled marriage. She uses current research on biochemistry and psychology to suggest a new model for relationships (a). Ultimately, Graham claims that really understanding how a relationship works can help us to dispel harmful myths surrounding love and marriage (b). This article is especially helpful for my research in two ways. First, it provides science-based support for my questions. Second, Graham helps me to see how professional writers can prove their thesis and still provide balanced evidence (c).

Due Dates for the Annotated Bibliography:

Revised dates:

May 1, Thurs: Topic summary + 5 key questions: due --one page, typed, double-spaced.

May 6, Tues: Peer review of annotated bibliography: --At least 7 total, and at least one

book and one web source

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Part 2: New York City Research Paper

Now that you have researched your topic and written your annotated bibliography, it is time to write the actual essay. Remember to begin with a brief introduction, your involvement with the place, and a strong thesis.

Research Essay Specifics:

1. Length: 4-5 pages of typed prose. Attach your revised annotated bibliography to the end of the

research essay.

2. A clear introduction, thesis, method, and clear paragraphs that explore your subject.

3. A conclusion that reflects upon future research and further questions.

4. At least five direct quotations. Each of these quotations must be in the form of an in-text citation.

And you must include a photocopy of original text that you cited.

5. Typed, double-spaced, MLA format. No cover page.

In-Text Citation Example:

In *Delirious New York*, the architect Rem Koolhaas states that “between 1890 and 1940 a new culture (the machine Age?) selected Manhattan as laboratory: a mythical island where the invention and testing of a metropolitan lifestyle and its attendant architecture could be pursued as a collective experiment” (9-10).

Why do we need in-text citations anyway? Answer: The above in-text citation tells readers that the information in the sentence can be located on pages 9 and 10 of a work by an author named Rem Koolhaas. This information is not made-up; it exists in a place where anybody can look it up. Citations make research accurate, defensible, reproducible, and also, open to interpretation by other scholars. Simply put, if readers want more information about Rem Koolhaas and his ideas, they can find it by going to the Works Cited page, where, under the name of Koolhaas, they will find the following information:

Koolhaas, Rem. *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan*. 1978. New

York: The Monacelli P, 1994. Print.

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Due Dates:

May 13, Tues \*\* Peer Review of complete draft of research essay

May 15, Thurs \*\* Final draft of both Annotated Bibliography and Research Essay are due

NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED