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

Prof. Sean Scanlan, spring 2016, 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.

Part of this assignment calls for you to put yourself into the research project. Here are two questions whose answers may be excellent ways to begin your essay: why did you choose this place? And, what relationship do you have to the site or to the people associated with the site? One way to become involved with the project is to interview someone who is an authority on your intended project or site.

The annotated bibliography is a storage place for your sources. Each time that 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.

Topics:

1. The topic must be about a physical place and the people and/or organizations and/or the events that either built it, destroyed it, or changed it in some way. The place must be within New York City. Examples of a place and topic: The Design and Building of the Statue of Liberty, the Gowanus Canal as Superfund Site, Prospect Park and the Battle of Brooklyn.

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 Emily and Washington Roebling successfully complete such a complex bridge, 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 article, 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 people 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 a thesis and still provide balanced evidence (c).

Due Dates for the Annotated Bibliography:

April 14, Journal 5 Due: Topic summary + 5 key questions: due 1-2 pages, typed, double-spaced.

April 21, 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 that highlights your involvement with the place. And make sure to write 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 page/website page 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: Monacelli P, 1994. Print.

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Due Dates:

May 10: Peer Review of essay draft

May 12: \*\* Final draft of both Annotated Bibliography and Research Essay are due

**NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED**