

Instructions: Create a document in MLA format which includes the following specific items indicating your research and thought processes for your Senior Thesis. Print three copies of this document to submit to each of the Core F tutors, who will review your work and offer suggestions. In addition, submit your file to Turn-it-in.

1. Begin with a paragraph overviewing your topic, issue(s) and possible thesis statement for your thesis.
2. Your second paragraph should describe opposing view(s) to your thesis. Be sure to include who might hold these views and why they hold their beliefs.
3. A third paragraph will address the Biblical Worldview arguments that apply to your topic, including specific Scripture if you have identified it.
4. Finally, include an annotated bibliography including at least 6 strong sources for your thesis. Two of the six should be written in support of opposing views to your thesis. One source should include an expert you plan to interview for your thesis.

Note: the expectation for this assignment is a thorough, carefully considered proposal. Each of the above paragraphs should be around 200 words in length, not just a couple of sentences thrown down the night before. The objective is to help you think through your topic/issue before fully beginning the research process; approaching this diligently NOW will help prepare you for quarters 3 and 4, when the remaining research, writing, and presentation are accomplished.

The Annotated Bibliography:

What is it?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they may describe the author's point of view, authority, or clarity and appropriateness of expression.

The Process:

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

1. Locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic.
2. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.
3. Cite the book, article, or document using MLA format. Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) discuss how you expect this source to either support or oppose your thesis (c) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

For help determining how to evaluate your sources critically, see here:

https://guides.library.cornell.edu/critically_analyzing

Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry:

Waite, Linda J., et al. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 51, no. 4, 1986, pp. 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. This will help support my thesis that traditional family roles are under attack in the modern culture.

Adapted from the Cornell University Library: <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography/home>

Using the library database: how to find sources

JPL:

- * Follow this link: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/research/databases/learning-and-research>
- * Select "A-Z List of Databases"
- * Select MasterFILEPremier (EBSCO)
- * Enter your library card number (FJP _____) and password and sign in.
- * Go to Advanced Search
- * Check boxes for "Full Text," "PDF Full Text"
- * Enter search terms in box (Slavery and the U.S. Constitution, for example), click Search
- * Numbered Results list will generate, click title to view abstract (summary)
- * PDF Full Text to download to computer
- * Tool bar on left allows you to print, save, email, download, and Cite button: gives correct citation, look for MLA, copy and paste to Word doc
- * Return to list to view additional sources

Reminders:

- * Your sources must be scholarly writings (no blogs, Wikipedia, or personal web sites)
- * Look for university press publishers, authors with advanced degrees in subject area, legitimate news sources (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc.)