

## Research Paper: Annotated Bibliography

### Objective

The goal of this submission is to help you narrow and refine your question while situating your work in the broader economics literature. This will make writing your research paper much easier as well!

### What is an annotated bibliography?<sup>1</sup>

A bibliography is a list of sources (books, journals, Web sites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called “References” or “Works Cited” depending on the style format you are using. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographic information (i.e., the author, title, publisher, etc.).

An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources.

### What do I need to do

Pick the idea you proposed that is most promising. You may refine it based on feedback, further reflection, etc. Based on that idea, you will need to identify and annotate **six** sources that are relevant to your project. At least **four** must be peer-reviewed, academic journal articles. For each one, include the following:

1. Full bibliographic information, following MLA, APA, or Chicago style.
2. The annotations, written as a paragraph or as bullet points. These will include a few things:
  - a. Nature of source: peer-reviewed academic journal (what discipline), working paper, white paper (ie reports from major organizations), other
  - b. Key findings or arguments of the source: It’s in your interest to be quite detailed here (*I like to use these to draw on when I write my paper*)
  - c. Assessment: How does it compare to other sources? (findings support or contrast)? Is the source biased or objective? What is the goal of the source?
  - d. Reflection: Is this useful to your question? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your project? (*Here I will sometimes add sample sentences I will write*)

After this, write an expanded version of your idea proposal (just one the idea you’ve chosen) that states your refined research question and describes how your planned project fits into the literature you found. This will be 2-3 paragraphs.

**Consult the [grading rubric](#) for additional guidance!**

---

<sup>1</sup>Pulled from [Purdue OWL](#)

### Submission requirements

Submit the annotated bibliography plus summary as one document on Blackboard by **October 27 @ 11:59pm**

If you are working in pairs, submit one bibliography for two people.

### Tips

- Search for your topic using [EconLit](#). If you are at home, you can select “[Connect Off Campus](#)” from the main library page
- When determining if an article might be useful, start by focusing on the abstract only. Among those that pass your abstract test, then just read the introduction to see if they are still going to help.
- When you’ve found an article or two that are useful, you can search forward and backward to find more!
  - Check the references section to find articles that were cited in your paper
  - Use [Google Scholar](#) to find articles that cite your paper
- Note that working paper series are *not* peer-reviewed journal articles. Nor are most reports from large organizations.

### Rubric

I thought a bulleted list would be clearer than a rubric for this assignment:

- This assignment is worth 40 points.
- Each source is worth 5 points (30 total), with one point per element listed above.
- At least 4 sources should be from peer-reviewed academic journal articles. The other two can be peer-reviewed articles, working papers, or other reasonable sources. All sources should be relevant and useful (ie. if not useful, don’t include!)
- The idea summary is worth 10 points, with full credit granted if you present your research question, describe in words how you will answer it, and then describe how what you plan to do fits in with the literature you’ve reviewed.