

Division III

Summer Exhibition Work: Annotated Bibliographies, Research Tips, and Note-Taking Tips

The following are your summer exhibition assignments. All are due on August 27th, 2009.

1. Read two books about your exhibition topic and take notes as you read. Be sure to indicate the page numbers in your notes. (See other side for note-taking tips.)
2. You must complete a typed annotated bibliography for each of the two books you read. Details can be found below.
3. You must complete a typed three section progress report (about one page) explaining the status of your exhibition at the end of the summer:
 - Section 1: In one paragraph describe your topic.
 - Section 2: Using bullets, describe 10 important things that you learned about your topic in your summer research.
 - Section 3: Using bullets, describe 10 things about your topic that confuse you or that you need to learn more about.

Annotated Bibliographies (Source: How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography)

1. What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of book citations. Additionally, each citation is followed by brief (usually about 200 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraphs, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform your mentor of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the books you read.

2. The process

First, cite the book using accurate and appropriate MLA format. Then write a concise annotation that summarizes the central themes and scope of the book in three paragraphs:

- Paragraph 1: a summary of the book; and also an explanation in which you describe the author's background and expertise
- Paragraph 2: an evaluation of the book in which you describe its accuracy, usefulness, possible bias, and intended audience
- Paragraph 3: a summary of the book's relevance to your research and what you learned about your exhibition topic from the book.

3. Sample MLA annotation (Source: Annotated Bibliography Samples)

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995.

Paragraph 1: Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.

(over)

Paragraph 2: Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach.

Paragraph 3: Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.

Research Tips

If you are looking for books on your exhibition topic try the following websites:

<http://www.worldcat.org/> (Great for finding book titles and libraries that have those books)

<http://library.dartmouth.edu/> (This is the Dartmouth library homepage where you can search for books. The Dartmouth library is open to the public and anyone can browse the stacks and do research in the library.)

When you have some book titles go to your local library and ask the librarian to order the book through inter-library loan.

Note-Taking Tips

As you read this summer, find and perfect a note-taking system that works for you. There are lots of good websites with cool suggestions for how to take research notes. The main thing is to find a system that works and is efficient - whether it be with note cards, a notebook, typing on your computer, or perhaps modifying the Cornell Note-Taking system to meet your research needs (see the sample sheet).

Works Cited

“How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography.” Olin and Uris Libraries. 2 May 2008. Cornell University. 8 Jun. 2009. <<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm#what>>

“Annotated Bibliography Samples.” The Owl at Purdue. Purdue University. 8 Jun. 2009. <<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/>>