

Enlightenment: Refined Research Question and Annotated Bibliography

You will be tasked with crafting an annotated bibliography that includes sources that you have explored and identified as being useful in writing an analytical paper on a research question that you will create. You will not actually be writing the paper, but you will be engaging in the research process as if you were going to do so. The objectives of this assignment are:

- to find a variety of scholarly secondary and primary sources relating to your assigned Enlightenment philosopher.
- to create a narrow and focused research question about your assigned Enlightenment philosopher.
- to analyze sources in terms of their relevance to your research question
- to create a properly formatted bibliography using Chicago Style Citations

You will conduct extensive research on the Enlightenment philosopher that you have been assigned. As you find your sources and conduct your research you will develop a question that will help drive your research. Think about what is it about your Enlightenment philosopher that you could write an analytical paper on. As you continue your research, you will be refining your research question. Once this happens, you will create an annotated bibliography of the sources that would be useful in writing a 2-3-page paper that answers your research question.

By **November 26** you will have developed a refined research question accompanied by an annotated bibliography that includes a total of 3 annotated sources. Your bibliography must include a minimum of 2 secondary sources and 1 primary source or vice versa.

Due Dates:

- **November 22 – Draft of your research question and a draft of 1 annotated Bibliography**
- **November 26 – Final drafts**

*** Your drafts and final will be submitted in Google Docs

*Enlightenment Philosophers and Rulers: Nicolaus Copernicus; Galileo Galilei; Francis Bacon; Rene Descartes; Thomas Hobbes; John Locke; Baron de Montesquieu; Voltaire; Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Catherine the Great (Russia); Charles II (Spain); Frederick the Great (Prussia); Joseph II (Austria); Maria Theresa (Austria)

Guide to Creating Research Questions & Writing an Annotated Bibliography

Adapted from: George Mason University's Writing Center <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/resources-template.php?id=59>

Creating Research Questions

What is a research question?

- A research question is a clear, focused, concise, complex and arguable question around which you center your research. You should ask a question about an issue that you are genuinely curious about.

Why is a research question essential to the research process?

- Research questions help writers focus their research by providing a path through the research and writing process. The specificity of a well-developed research question helps writers avoid the "all-about" paper and work toward supporting a specific, arguable thesis.

Steps

- Choose an interesting general topic. Even directed academic research should focus on a topic in which the writer is at least somewhat personally invested. Writers should choose a broad topic about which they genuinely would like to know more.
- Do some preliminary research on your general topic.
- Start asking questions. Taking into consideration the above, start asking yourself open-ended "how" and "why" questions about your general topic. For example, "How did the effects of colonialism impact the economic development of India?" or "Why was violence used as a way to protest colonial rule?"
- Evaluate your question. Is your research question clear? With so much research available on any given topic, research questions must be as clear as possible in order to be effective in helping the writer direct his or her research.
- Is your research question complex? Research questions should not be answerable with a simple "yes" or "no" or by easily-found facts. They should, instead, require both research and analysis on the part of the writer.
- Hypothesize. After you've come up with a question, think about what the path you think the answer will take. Where do you think your research will take you? What kind of argument are you hoping to make/support? What will it mean if your research disputes your planned argument?

Writing an Annotated Bibliography

Adapted from Purdue University's Writing Center <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/1/>

- What is an Annotated Bibliography? A bibliography is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, 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 of the source.
- Why should I write an annotated bibliography? To learn about your topic. Writing an annotated bibliography is excellent preparation for a research project. Just collecting sources for a bibliography is useful, but when you have to write annotations for each source, you're forced to read each source more carefully. You begin to read more critically instead of just collecting information.

What should be included in an annotation?

Annotations include sentences that

1. Evaluate the authority or background of the author
2. Comment on the intended audience
3. Compare or contrast this work with another you have cited
4. Explain how or why this work is useful to your paper

Example

O'Connor, Francis V. The New Deal Art Projects: An Anthology of Memoirs. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Institute Press, 1972.

This anthology had a great introduction, which was beneficial and aided me in getting a good perspective of the projects, but the memoirs were focused on just the FAP activity and New York. Since I already had *Art of the Millions*, which held memoirs from artists around the country, I chose to focus on the memoirs in that source. I trusted O'Connor, seeing as his compilations were mentioned in many of my other books. O'Connor comes from a background of being a professor, and he therefore writes very informative overarching introductions and chose good memoirs for his compilations.

Stavenitz, Alexander R. "The Therapy of Art." In *Art for the Millions*, ed. Francis V. O'Connor, 201-203. New York: New York Graphic Society Limited, 1973.

Stavenitz was a Russian immigrant who studied art in NY and St. Louis. He was particularly skilled in graphic arts. He was part of the FAP from 1935-1940, and pursued teaching on multiple occasions. This memoir was very helpful for it aided me in strengthening my argument relating art and therapy. Also, this memoir helped me further develop my arguments about art education. Stavenitz's honesty translated to eloquence in capturing his sentiments.