

Economics 212, Fall 07

Annotated Source List/Bibliography Criteria

*50 points possible, Assignment due 10/21!*

## **Annotated Bibliography**

**I.** The purpose of an annotated source list or bibliography is to briefly summarize information or sources you have found about a particular topic. An annotated bibliography can do any or all of the following.

A. Present the most important sources you can assemble about a topic.

B. Answer specific questions about a topic.

C. Support an idea or position toward a topic.

D. Evaluate the usefulness of your sources.

**II.** Your group should find 3-4 specific sources for each of your topic questions. Please use sources that are available through the Internet – either web pages or articles available through HCC or library on-line periodical databases. (HCC library link [http://flightline.highline.edu/library/research\\_resources.html](http://flightline.highline.edu/library/research_resources.html). - you'll need your student ID number).

These sources should be articles or web pages with information directly related to the topic. For example, [www.seattletimes.com](http://www.seattletimes.com) would not be an acceptable source – but a particular article from the Seattle Times that you found in Proquest would be acceptable.

Part of your grade for the annotated bibliography will be based on the variety of source types (web pages, newspaper articles, academic journal articles, etc.) and variety of viewpoints (critical, supportive, conservative, liberal, etc.) represented in your sources.

These sources should be from 2003 and later – unless you can make a strong case for including something older. That explanation should appear for any source with a date of 2002 or before. Occasionally, a single source may be appropriate for multiple questions. It is acceptable to use the same source for two questions – but only for two, so you'll want to be strategic about what you use for which questions.

**III.** Each of the entries should include:

A. Citation for the source – with Title, Author(s), Organization or Publication, Page numbers (if applicable), Date, and Internet URL. (note that the source Organization or Publication is NOT Google – a search engine, or Proquest – an on-line database).

B. 5-6 sentences that explain what the source has to offer and what it is good for. This summary should cover the type of information that this source provides and its viewpoint, followed by an evaluation of the usefulness of the source. This brief evaluation should cover the major strengths and major weaknesses of the web page or article as an information source for other students writing papers on your topic.

Example on the topic of inflation:

"Good old days really were, in many ways," Scott Burns, Seattle Times, June 25, 2006.

URL: <http://archives.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/taxis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=burns25&date=20060625>

This newspaper article compares a typical starting salary and living expenses for 4-year college graduates in 1962 and today. It shows how salaries have not kept pace with inflation in the areas of education, payroll taxes, and housing costs, but income tax rates are lower today. This article is good for giving specific, real-life examples of inflation. One weakness is that the income tax section is a little hard to understand for people who don't know that much about taxes. Another possible weakness is that it assumes a starting salary of \$50,000.

**IV.** Your bibliography will be evaluated on the following criteria:

A. The thoroughness of your research.

B. Your use of appropriate (current, respected, and/or scholarly) sources.

C. The variety of source types and viewpoints represented by your sources

D. Clear summaries of the information presented in each source.

E. Thought given to the strengths and weaknesses of each source.

Adapted from Clues for College Writers: Cracking the Mystery of Academic Writing, Metropolitan State University.

URL: <http://www.metrostate.edu/writingcenter/clues/biblio.html>.