

Proposal Assignment #2: Annotated bibliography

DUE: 7 October 2015

*****This assignment must be emailed to Julie Padowski by 6pm on the due date!*****

Now that you have a rough idea of what you want to write your proposal on, you can start digging into the literature to give yourself and your proposal some context and focus. These literature reviews are an *absolutely critical part* of constructing a good research proposal. They help you identify what people have already studied, where there are gaps that still need answering, and give you the information you need to create an impactful, funneled significance statement.

You'll use the information you collect in this annotated bibliography to create the Introduction and Background section of your proposal. This section of your proposal will both summarize and synthesize the information you've found, culminating in your significance statement at the end. The annotated bibliography will help you start summarizing this information (essentially recapping the important parts from each source), but you may want to jot down your ideas about how you're going to synthesize this information, too. This synthesis is a type of re-organization reflecting how these published materials can be interpreted or collectively viewed to support why your work will be important (significance).

ASSIGNMENT SPECIFICS:

- 1) Your annotated bibliography should include **7-10 annotated references that best support your research proposal idea**, and that ideally will help you construct your Introduction & Background and Significance portions of your proposal. Together, these references provide you with the information necessary to show the proposal reviewer what research related to your topic has already been done, where the gaps in those studies are (this is what you're going to propose to address) and why the work is important. **Each reference annotation should be between 75-150 words.**
- 2) The majority of your references (80%) should come from [peer-reviewed \(scholarly\) literature](#) or **scientific reports from respected organizations** (e.g. United Nations, US Geological Survey, World Bank). I suggest using [Google Scholar](#) or the [Web of Knowledge](#) to help you find relevant articles, and then use the references from those articles to track down other potentially useful sources of information. Remember that sometimes you'll have to actually use the library to get to these articles (either in print or online at: <http://libraries.wsu.edu/find-articles>).

The remaining 20% of references can come from other scientifically legitimate sources (although I'd strongly suggest you try to stick to only peer-reviewed literature or scientific reports if possible!). If you're in doubt about what a "scientifically legitimate source" is, there are two things to check for: 1) look at the web address, if it's .org or .gov or .edu, it's probably ok. 2) is it an opinion piece, or was it based on actual research? If it's a blog, personal opinion or personal webpage, it's probably NOT ok. (You can always ask me if you're unsure).

- 3) You can use either the [APA](#), [AMA](#) or [MLA](#) journal citation formats.

If you're unsure of what an annotated bibliography should look like, or need a refresher, visit: http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography
