**Overview**

Students are to research one decade in American history and write an annotated bibliography addressing both the literature and the history of the time period. Your bibliography must include a thesis statement that answers your research question: How does history influence the literature of a given time period?.

**ASSIGNMENT:** You are to research, within your chosen decade, the influential history, culture, and literature, as well as how each element impacted the other. Write a well-developed thesis statement and an annotated bibliography that analyzes your research.

**Decades from which to choose:**

1690s 1860s 1920s 1960s

1770s 1880s 1930s 1970s

1790s 1900s 1940s 1980s/1990s

1840s 1910s 1950s 2000s

What, ultimately, should you research? You should research the literature and the history of the decade. For the history of the decade, consider the historical context, important people, music/popular culture, innovations, political and social movements, technology, noteworthy achievements, etc. Your goal is to ultimately try to make a connection between what was going on in the world at the time, and what literature was created as a result.

**When doing your research, you should find most of your sources through the GALILEO and GALE databases. *Sources outside of these databases must be reliable.*** Only accredited websites and resources will be accepted for discovering your information.

What you cannot use as sources for your annotated bib: Wikipedia, SparkNotes (Gradesaver, Shmoop, Cliff Notes, or any other similar source), student essays, or projects found on the Internet. Be smart.

**SPECIFICS OF THE PAPER:**

1. MLA formatting
2. A thesis statement that provides a specific focus for your work. It should make clear exactly how the literature of your time period was impacted by that decade’s historical influences.
3. A minimum of 5 annotations. (Maximum of 7). The annotations contain three major elements:

* a work cited listing for the source (in proper format)
* a summary of the information from the source
* an analysis of the quality of the source in helping you address your thesis statement.

1. Each annotation (not including the works cited entry) should be approximately 100 - 150 words in length. Do not skimp on this – it is the largest portion of this grade.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Wednesday, 4/24🡪 Sign up for a decade to research/Begin preliminary research

Thursday, 4/25🡪 Example of and construction of an Annotated Bibliography / Research

Friday, 4/26 🡪 Reading Group #3/Work on collaborative projects with group

Thursday, 5/2🡪 Work on Annotated Bibliography in class

Friday, 5/3🡪 Edit and revise/Annotated Bibliographies due to turnitin.com by 4:00 p.m.

# Research Question: How does history influence the literature of a given time period?

**The Annotated Bibliography**

In order to meet all of the requirements for an American Literature course in Georgia, you will need to complete a research-based assignment.

One of the more useful tools in conducting research is the ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY.

An annotated bibliography combines the citations found in a Works Cited page at the end of documents in MLA format with annotations about each of the sources.  For this assignment, you will construct an annotated bibliography based upon the history and literature of a decade you chose to research.

**Purpose:**  An annotated bibliography is an organizing tool that is helpful when working on a research project.  An effective annotated bibliography is used to compile research sources in one location and provide the researcher with quick access to the information contained in each source.

**Audience:** This assignment should be directed at your scholarly peers, and you may assume that they have only a casual familiarity with your topic or issue.

**Content/Subject:** Your annotated bibliography will consist of a thesis statement and the sources that you have deemed relevant to help you support that statement.

1. Cite the source in proper MLA format.  The citations should be organized in alphabetical order by author just as in an MLA Works Cited page.
2. Follow with a brief annotation that summarizes the source (approx. 3-5 sentences). You may quote from the source, but do not copy and paste the abstract. Ideally, all of the annotation should be in your own words.
3. In 1 or 2 sentences, explain the source’s relevance and importance to your issue.

**Constraints:**  The annotated bibliography is a fairly rigid genre.  Your citations must adhere to MLA format.  This will be one of the central components of the grade for this assignment.  Failure to follow MLA format exactly will harm your grade. Use the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) as a guide, if necessary. There is a link to Purdue OWL on my website.

The annotations for each source should follow an academic style.  This means that you must construct, with elevated and sophisticated language, correct grammatical sentences that effectively summarize what each source has to say.  Additionally, you should explain how each source is relevant to the issue that you have selected and what it adds to your knowledge about your issue.

Specific guidelines to follow when completing this assignment are:

* An MLA formatted document, including a title relevant to the literature or history of your decade
* A thesis statement that answers the research question
* 5-7 sources of various types (book, article, website, etc.).
* Sources focused around your topic: How does history influence the literature of a given time period?
* Adherence to MLA format for all citations.
* Sources in alphabetical order according to author.
* Thoughtful and complete annotations of 100-150 words.
* Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

LastName 1

Your name

Teacher name

Class/Period

Date

Thesis Statement: Post-World-War II works such as *1984*, *Animal Farm*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *The Crucible* reflected the hysteria caused by the Red Scare – a fear that Communists would infiltrate and subvert the government as a result of the Cold War between the United States and the USSR.

Annotated Bibliography

Clanton, Bonnie. *A Comparative Study of Three American Witchcraft Plays*. New York:

Oxford University Press, 2013. Print.

Bonnie Clanton analyzes the representation of the rampant accusations of witchcraft in the northern colonies of the late-1600’s. Clanton describes how innocent people suffered in the community because of the greed, selfishness, and power of a certain few. She also analyzes the historical accuracy in *The Crucible*, noting the difficulty of criticizing the play’s representation of history because it was created in modern times. This is an analysis of a time period steeped in secrecy, fear, and religious fervor – the extremes of which led to the deaths of hundreds of people. While this article was not recently published, it still provides accurate, relevant research. Dr. Clanton is a well-published professor of English.

Fhaner, Beth A. “The Crucible.” *Magill’s Cinema Annual* 16 (2013): 116-18. Print.

Beth Fhaner makes two main points regarding Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*: 1) it is Miller’s most produced and arguably most powerful play; 2) the play was intended to comment on the outrageous and shameful way many people responded to the pressures of McCarthyism by turning over their friends, colleagues, and neighbors to authorities and by telling outright lies. Fhaner’s work is interesting and relevant; it could easily be incorporated into classroom instruction on *The Crucible*. She is aware of and discusses the ability of *The Crucible* to simultaneously comment on history and modern times. Fhaner has published several articles on works by Arthur Miller.

Sample Annotated Bibliography in MLA Format  
(adapted from a bibliography by Jamie Kolodziej and Gretchen Vollmer)

**Name: Decade:**

Assessment Rubric for Annotated Bibliography

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **Exceptional** | **Very Good** | **Average** | **Below Average** | **Poor** |
| **Quantity of sources**        **10 pts.** | Document cites the number of sources outlined in the assignment.  10 | Document is one source under the required number of sources.  8.5 | Document is two sources under the required number of sources.  7 | Document is three sources under the required number of sources.  5.5 | Document is four or more sources under the number of required sources.  3 |
| **Quality/**  **Reliability of Sources**      **20 pts.** | All sources cited can be considered reliable and/or trustworthy.  20 | Most sources cited can be considered reliable and/or trustworthy.  17 | Some sources can be considered reliable and/or trustworthy.  14 | Few sources cited can be considered reliable and/or trustworthy.  11 | Little or no reliable and/or trustworthy sources cited.  8 |
| **Variety of Sources**    **10 pts.** | Excellent variety of sources; cites more than four types of sources.  10 | Good variety of sources; cites four types of sources.  8.5 | Adequate variety of sources; cites three types of sources.  7 | Poor variety of sources; cites two types of sources.  5.5 | No variety of sources; cites only one type of source.  3 |
| **Writing fluency of annotations**  **30 pts.** | All annotations are thoughtful, complete, and well written.  30 | Most annotations are thoughtful, complete, and well written.  25.5 | Some annotations are well written but some are lacking in completeness, thought, and /or writing quality.  21 | Most annotations are lacking in completeness, thought, and/or writing quality.  16.5 | All annotations are lacking in completeness, thought, and/or writing quality.  12 |
| **MLA and**  **Documentation**      **30 pts.** | Citations are formatted correctly in the document.  30 | There are a few formatting errors in the document’s citations.  25.5 | There are some formatting errors in the document’s citations.  21 | There are many and/or frequent formatting errors in the document’s citations.  16.5 | There is little or no adherence to MLA format in the document.  12 |

Rubrics are subject to minor revisions. Students will be notified of changes.

You must include literature as one of the areas you research. For the other area – history – you may use the questions below as a guide to help you begin your research study. History may be influenced by politics, business, religion, social movements, warfare, technology, etc., Your research should connect the history and literature of your chosen time period.

**Literature (Required):**

* Who are the significant authors and literature of your decade?
* What themes are most prevalent in literature during this decade?
* How does the literature directly relate to the culture, politics, wars, social movements, etc. of the decade?
* What types of literature are found during this decade (war novels, classic works, pop fiction, horror, etc.)
* Is literacy common or do most people not read?
* How does the literature influence people during the decade?

**History:** *(You do NOT have to answer all of these questions; they are here to help you determine what information you COULD use to make a connection between the literature and the history of your chosen decade.)*

**Politics of the decade**:

* Who was President?
* What political milestones occurred during the decade?
* What political movements (if any) were prevalent during the decade?
* How do the politics of the time influence the literature?

**Wars or Conflicts**:

* + What war or conflict occurred during the decade?
  + Who were the major powers involved in the conflict?
  + What were the economical and/or social repercussions from the conflict?
  + How many lives were lost from the conflict?
  + Why did our country enter the conflict?
  + How does this war or conflict influence the literature of the period?

**Religion:**

* How does religion influence the literature of the time?
* Are there any religious conflicts or concerns during this decade?
* How does religion influence entertainment and the media during this decade?

**Social Movements:**

* What social movements are prevalent during this decade?
* Do the social movements of the decade influence the literature? How?
* In what ways do the social movements of the time period correlate to political and religious views?
* Are the social movements considered radical?
* Are the social movements necessary to help a particular group in society?

**Science and Technology:**

* In what ways did science and technology advance during the decade?
* How do science and technology influence the literature of the period?
* What forms of science and technology are prevalent in this decade?
* How does society react to these new technologies?

**Art/Entertainment:**

* How does art influence literature during this decade?
* How does art become a voice for the people of this decade?
* What type of entertainment is popular?
* What types of vehicles do people drive, homes do people live in, and gadgets do people own?