

English 100/101A

Assignment: Annotated Works Cited List (**draft and final versions**)
Text: (Primary source text and researched sources specific to your essay focus)
Length: Minimum **6 correctly listed sources** with annotations

What is this annotated list assignment?

For your Research Essay you will need to prepare an *Annotated* Works Cited List that follows the same MLA rules and format for standard works cited lists that you learned earlier in the term. This list will be attached to the end of your final essay.

In preparation for that final list and for the research that's required for the essay assignment, you'll have to begin your research early and create a draft version for me so that I may review your source selections and research work, and check your summary description skills once again before your final essay is due.

This sheet describes the requirements for your final list (the one you'll attach to your final essay) *and* the draft version of the list I'll want to see before your final essay is due. Read it very carefully so that you will understand exactly what's required of you in both versions of the list.

How are the two lists different?

The only difference between the *draft* and final versions of your annotated list is this: your *draft* list may contain sources that you may not ultimately decide to use and include in the final list that accompanies your essay. That is the only difference between the two lists. (Everything else remains the same between the two lists: your entries must be correctly formatted and include all required details for a correct works cited list entry, each entry must be annotated with a 3-5 sentence summary description of it, there must be a minimum of 6 separate sources listed, and one of your 6 entries will be your primary source.) While the final list will only include entries for sources that you actually use and reference in your actual essay, your *draft* list can include any of the academic sources you uncover in your research that you think may be relevant or useful to you later on. These potential sources will still need to be listed correctly on your draft list of course, and they'll still need to be annotated though of course.

What is the actual (final) list assignment?

First, let's review the differences between standard and annotated works cited lists. There is a full explanation and model of an annotated works cited list on a separate sheet located elsewhere in this unit that you should read immediately if you haven't already done so. Note from that explanation that an *annotated* list, unlike a standard list, includes short "annotations" – 3-5 sentence summary descriptions (not analysis) of the source. These short summary descriptions get written directly beneath each entry on the list. The annotations should look and feel just like the description work you did in your Summary Essay in the beginning of the term, only much shorter.

You'll find sample annotated lists in the Samples folder in the course and at the ends of (some) of the research essay samples I've posted in the unit for you to use as models for your own essay work – be sure to look at those models before constructing your own lists.

Your list needs to include **6 separate sources**, each one including a correctly formatted standard works cited list entry AND a 3-5 sentence summary description of that source, written in standard academic language (3rd person, present tense). One of your sources will be your chosen primary source – the one you're writing about in your essay. The other 5 sources will be other academic or professional sources – ones that you've researched **and directly reference and cite in your essay** (by paraphrasing or directly quoting page cited passages to support your analysis work). *Every* source you include on your final list **must** be annotated. *Every* source you include on your final list **must** be directly cited in your essay for support and illustration of your arguments – there should be no "filler" sources on your final list (ones that you don't actually directly reference in your essay discussion). This last

requirement doesn't apply of course to your *draft* list: your *draft* list entries may or may not end up as part of your final essay, it's up to you.

What kinds of sources should I be looking for?

The sources you include on your list must be directly relevant to your critical evaluation of the reading selection you've chosen. Your sources need to be drawn from legitimate sources that deal directly, in an analytical or otherwise relevant manner similar to your primary source reading, with some of the topics dealt with in your chosen reading selection.

You should be looking at things like book reviews and critiques, books and legitimate web portals for online publications, scholarly journals and newspapers, film, photography, music. To find some of these sources, you should be using the library search tools and functions you relied on earlier in the semester when you completed your Lab Lessons/Research Skills quizzes that asked you to do some library research. Use the research skills, tools, and library links provided elsewhere in the course to help you find appropriate sources for your research. And again, if you're confused about this assignment, review the Research Essay assignment as it will help clarify what this annotated works cited list is for. And remember that there are sample annotated lists in the Samples folder within the course to model as you work on your own.

Your final list can have *more* than the minimum required number of entries (6), but not less. And again, your list must include a list entry for your primary source text, with its own 3-5 sentence annotation, just like your research sources. Remember to keep your annotations short: do not let each annotation extend beyond 5 sentences, but do write a **minimum of 3 well-proofread summary statements** introducing and briefly describing each source. These summaries are only meant to be brief overviews of what the source is about, how it's written, what audience it's speaking to, etc.

***A note about the sources you end up using in your papers: all must be directly relevant to the assignment but also scholarly in nature.** Dictionary or Wikipedia or SparkNotes sources, for example, are not sufficiently scholarly or academic in nature, and **will not count toward your minimum required number of sources**, although you may still use them if you wish as *additional* sources beyond your required number of sources. I want you looking though at credible professional and academic sources to support your analysis, not only pop sites and references. You can find many of these online although my suggestion again is that you go to the campus libraries (or other area libraries) and enlist the help of the research librarians there to point you in the right direction if you're having trouble finding sources on your own. The Gale database is a very good place to start looking for sources. If you have questions about what counts as legitimate, academic source material, ask a librarian or me (in the Virtual Office so that everyone can read my answers).

The best way to focus your search for materials relevant to your analysis will be to settle on a particular aspect of the writing in your selected text that you think you may use to focus your thesis and essay when you seek to create a close analysis of your chosen reading selection. If you know ahead of time that you are interested in writing about the use of humor in a given work, for example, that will help you narrow your focus as you do your research to only those articles that seem to address how that topic is addressed by other writers, humorously and not humorously.

What are the minimum requirements again?

Final lists that do not include at least 6 correctly listed and formatted entries (1 of them your primary source text, 5 of them your researched sources) or that fail to include 3-5 sentence summary descriptions for each **will make your essay ineligible for a passing grade.**

Draft lists must also include 6 entries (one of which will again be your primary source text from *New Kings*) and the entries must also be correctly listed and formatted and include annotations, **but the researched sources themselves do not need to be the same as those that are included in your final lists.**

Good luck with your research, start it early, use the samples and instructions I have provided separately, utilize our school librarians, and ask me questions in the Virtual Office.