Scenario: You are a writing professor. You are going to redesign a freshman writing class for community-based learning. Over the course of a term, you assign three major assignments/essays, and you want these essays to help the students achieve learning outcomes for writing and service learning.

Assignment #2: Categorized Annotated Bibliography

Audience: Academic

Sources: 10 total

In this “essay project,” you will research “around” your topic by considering different perspectives. By academic discourse, I am referring to the body of scholarly work on your topic, the multi-faceted and on-going arguments concerning your topic that appear within or across the academic disciplines and schools of thought (e.g., biology, sociology, literature, feminism, and so on). This bibliography will later serve as the research for your research paper (Assignment #3).

Research

1. Select an academically interesting topic (we will discuss what I mean by “interesting” in class and in conference). You will now need to find at least TEN new sources related to your topic.

2. CONVENTIONAL WISDOM or OTHER PERSPECTIVE (“They Say”): Find at least three sources that will allow you to represent the conventional wisdom, or different perspectives than your own, on your topic. What do people generally believe about your topic that you are going to complicate? You may need to be creative—finding “alternative” forms of research anywhere, from online bulletin boards or cereal boxes—to articulate their “voice.”

3. YOUR PERSPECTIVE: Locate at least five sources, including at least three articles from academic journals, which will help to support your argument. These sources should help you to demonstrate or argue for the complexity of your topic.

4. PRIMARY DOCUMENTS or OTHER: Find at least two sources that will help you develop either an analysis or your argument. This may include statistics or other facts; statements by important figures; images; or anything, really. These sources may be popular or scholarly. These sources are wildcards: you can use whatever you think will be helpful.

5. REFLECTION

Assignment Credit: Adapted from Dr. Edward Comstock, Senior Professorial Lecturer, American University, Washington, DC. WRTG 100: College Writing, Fall 2015.


