Eng 101: Annotated Bibliography
Defend Your Future

Your final major assignment will be an annotated bibliography that highlights three sources you would use to develop an argument. This argument is one that you would make about why you will be terrific in your chosen field or dream job.

The “annotated bib” is a common assignment in college writing, used in a variety of disciplines. Annotated bibliographies serve a number of purposes including:

- locating research relevant to your topic and/or argument (citation).
- describing the type of source and its main points (summary),
- assessing how credible and useful the source is (evaluation), and
- identifying specific information that would apply to your argument (application).

The audience for your argument is a prospective employer, a program director for the academic program of your choice or the Director of Admissions for a college you hope to transfer to in an effort to get closer to the career you want to have.

For our purposes, however, you will not be developing the argument fully, just sketching it out and collecting the research needed to support it.

The first step in developing an annotated bibliography is to do some prewriting to determine the thesis of your argument.

Your prewriting should answer the following questions:

- State your career goal and the skills it requires.
- Provide reasons for why the career is right for you and support them in a way that demonstrates your understanding of the occupation as well as an understanding of your strengths and the benefits this work offers you.
- Consider what you can offer to the field? Sell yourself as a great potential member of this career field.
- Be honest about the obstacles you face in achieving this goal and how you plan to overcome them.
- Close by making a final appeal to your reader about why you deserve an opportunity to pursue your dream.

Once you have determined that point you want to make to your reader, you can begin your research.

This assignment is designed to give you experience researching and evaluating sources that can be integrated into a personally useful piece of writing. Take advantage of this assignment to learn about your chosen career field by exploring sources like the
Occupational Outlook Handbook, college or other educational websites and scholarly journals about current issues from your field as well as by conducting interviews with experts or professionals doing the work you hope to do.

We will have a bibliographic instruction session with a reference librarian to help you get started.