

Final Paper: Annotated Bibliography

In this last unit we've been exploring the broader profession of history: historiography, documentarians, filmmakers, public historians, writers, bloggers... and you have learned that many different professionals make up the field and profession of history. Good historical research, we have found in this course, takes multiple perspectives into account and positions itself in ongoing scholarly conversations not only through empirical methods and primary source analysis but through historiography and, where appropriate, theory.

This paper will be in the form of an annotated bibliography of 5-7 sources. Please consult your Rampolla book, pp. 24-26 for a description and example of an annotated bibliography. The topic is entirely up to you, and can be related to one of your first two papers if you choose.

The bibliography should contain the following:

- ✓ An introductory essay (about 1-2 pages in length), ESTABLISHING the significance of your historical topic, controversy, or concept and FRAMING your approach
- ✓ At least 2 primary sources, annotated
- ✓ At least 2 **PRINT** secondary sources, annotated (preferably university-press book or peer-reviewed journal articles. Even if accessed online these still "count" as print sources)
- ✓ At least 1 website or online ("born digital") resource, annotated
- ✓ Wikipedia cannot be one of your sources

The bibliography can be oriented in one of two ways: Imagine that you will be writing a paper that is

EITHER

A historiographical exercise, considering how historians over time or from different schools of thought have analyzed and interpreted an event or historical topic

OR

An "exhibit," laying out how you'd tell one particular story about the past, synthesizing primary sources and secondary/scholarly or public history materials

WHAT MAKES THIS ASSIGNMENT DIFFERENT: *You're not actually writing the paper,* you're just collecting the sources and commenting on them. Each source needs to have a complete Chicago Style bibliography entry (refer back to Rampolla for how to do this if you're unsure), and an explanatory paragraph (the "annotation") setting the source within the context of your research question and explaining its significance and contribution to the topic.

Your bibliography represents the culmination of your learning and thinking from the whole semester, and should showcase your understanding of how to frame a research inquiry and interpret the sources you find.

TIP FOR THE FUTURE: If done well, this assignment makes a solid foundation for further research in the history major and possibly even beyond. You may want to think about this bibliography, for example, as the seed of your intended capstone work, such as your senior research paper or thesis, or as something you can build into a writing sample for graduate school applications. It will become a permanent part of your history ePortfolio.

Submission: Since this paper is due during the course final exam slot (on Friday Dec 13th) rather than during a class meeting day, it should be submitted in TWO forms, both electronic:

- ✓ Send as a Word document to me via email
- ✓ Upload a PDF copy to your course e-Portfolio

Grading: You will receive a grade for the assignment which will be recorded on Blackboard, and I will provide comments/feedback via email as well. The assignment is worth **20 points (1/5 of your course grade)**.