

## **Paper 2: Annotated Bibliography**

**English 305T**

**Due Date: November 12th**

The term *Annotated Bibliography (AB)* means “listed or described sources.” So, an Annotated Bibliography contains information about a source’s content. Normally this takes the form of summary with end-text (Heading) and in-text documentation. In addition to summary of source content, the AB also may contain third-person commentary on the part of the writer to illuminate or clarify the meaning of the source.

**Objective of the AB:** The main objective of the AB is the following: 1) The AB shows where information comes from—source citation. 2) The AB provides a more complete and substantive explanation of content found in more generalized form within other documents. 3) Finally, the AB allows readers to understand more about the complexities of the topic-- if they wish to know more. In a supportive way, the AB clarifies content that—if not given in an AB—might seem highly complex considering the nature of the subjects.

### **Assignment:**

#### **1► Find/Compile at least 20 sources.**

**\*Note: we will define a *source* as the following: “Any printed or virtual book, magazine, newspaper, journal, pamphlet, government document, corporate or institutional publication, public or private research, or empirically derived surveys and questionnaires.” In addition, we extend the definition to mean “personal interviews email conversations, audio and video sources as well as computer data bases, or any other form of technological media.” There are no specific types of sources excluded from the AB unless they simply don’t make sense to utilize. Feel 100% free to utilize all forms of inquiry and explore your options with all types of sources.**

#### **2► After finding your sources, read them, take good notes on what particular information from the source you want to use in the AB. Next, write a one (1) page (and one page only!!), single-spaced summary of the content. Each source should have its own individual page.**

### **In General, What Should be in Each Annotation?**

- 1) The content of each AB should be a minimum of 250 words .**
- 2) Provide a summary of the content of the source with MLA in-text documentation. Use at least three (3) one-sentence quotes per annotation and explain each quote with commentary. Block quotes**

are not allowed. There should be a balance (50/50) between cited material and interpretative commentary that is not cited.

- 3) Provide third-person commentary on the source to show how it argues a particular side of the issue
  - 4) Provide a brief "source justification" section to show how each source compares and contrasts in terms of content with other sources in the AB collection.
- 3► 1" down from the Top of the page, there should be an MLA Citation Heading (CH). A CH is the publication information normally found on a Works Cited sheet or a Bibliography sheet. given. Put the citation information in bold. After the last line of the single-spaced citation (single space the citation) you should triple-single space and begin the single spaced paragraph with no indentations. Only write one (1) paragraph for the summary, not two, not three. Make sure you use in-text (within the paragraph citations). The summary paragraph does not have a topic sentence; there is NOT a main idea sentence-element within the paragraph. While the paragraph provides exact information, there is also room for commentary, interpretation of data, or professional judgments of content.

**Exact Content Points for Each Annotation:**

- 1) General Overview
- 2) Specific Quotes with In-text documentation
- 3) Interpretative Commentary (How the source helps inform or solve the problem).
- 4) The Unique Contribution of the Source
- 5) How the Source *Compares* with another Source in the AB Collection
- 6) How the Source *Contrasts* with another Source in the AB Collection

**Writing Sample (Sample AB follows on Next Page):**



Sample

**Smith, Jon. *Disappearing Middle-Class America*. New York: Random House, 2006.**

Author Jon Smith presents a portrait of American economic and social life from post-war 1950 to the turn of the twenty-first century. More than simple economics and cultural change, Smith's book looks on American culture with the assumption that something has gone wrong in America. Exploring the concepts of downsizing, reduced income, and changing family structures, Smith's main contention is that modern America is a result of a crisis in personal versus social identity, and that the middle-class is "disappearing" due to changes in the way individuals define their new emerging roles in a global world (46). In the chapter entitled "America at War with Itself," the author contends that "1950s American ideals of family could not coexist with the newer version of self-centeredness that mushroomed in the peace movements of the late 1960s" (256). As the less non-traditional liberation movement began as a result of America's prolonged engagement in Vietnam, there was less room for the cohesiveness in society that would promote the homogenous family and economic structures of the 1950s (276-278). Smith points to six main reasons for the decline of the middle-class family: "the rise of the culture of 'me,' the increasing emphasis on less costly products, the decline in American industrial production, the promotion of free trade, the decline of pay and benefits for workers, and the lessening of American influence in global markets" (194). The cultural revolution of the 1960s encouraged the advancement of the individual and this contributed to a decline in nationalistic reasons to further the country over the individual. Further, Smith claims that "the most devastating aspect of middle-class decline was the new emphasis on global trade" (135). Global trade allowed Americans to be free to make more personal choices in purchasing which lead to the increased need to own cheap material goods that did not sustain local economies—or families. This source contributes to the AB collection by showing the social—not just economic—changes that have taken place in America. Unlike other sources in the collection, this source stresses that psychological and sociological change in the middle-class has been the result of physical economic changes that have occurred in America over a fifty year period. The book *Toward a New Democracy of the Middle Class* is similar to Smith's text, yet it doesn't deal with the middle-class; rather, it only takes into consideration the role of family values and how they have changed. *Racing with the Wind* is very similar in its point of view as Smith's text. It argues, like Smith, that there is no longer a middle-class in America, only rich and poor.