

Evaluating Sources

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT

GOAL:

This assignment will:

- Expose you to the variety of print and electronic resources available at USNA.
- Develop your skills in locating, critically evaluating, and selecting the most important and appropriate sources for your project.
- Underscore the importance of properly citing sources for academic work.
- Introduce you to the major citation systems.
- Assist you in creating research-based arguments through use of quality, scholarly sources.

THESIS:

On a separate sheet of paper, write the thesis of your research assignment.

A good thesis is a concise, provocative sentence on which reasonable people can disagree, that is supportable with research so that you persuade others to agree with you. Make sure that yours meets the following criteria:

- Does it directly address the assigned topic?
- Is it written as a statement with which it is possible to agree or disagree?
- Is it tailored to a scope appropriate for the paper length?

RESEARCH:

For each of the media types listed below, find one resource that supports or refutes your thesis.

Media Type:	Suggested Library Resource(s):
Book:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nimitz Library Catalog
Newspaper article:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LexisNexis Academic• National Newspapers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York Times Historical
Scholarly journal article:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Search Premier • JSTOR • Project Muse • Social Sciences Full Text • Worldwide Political Science Abstracts
Popular press magazine:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Search Premier • Social Sciences Full Text
Web site:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Science Internet Resources

In addition, these other kinds of resources may also be useful:

Government Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nimitz Library Catalog
Audiovisuals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nimitz Library Catalog • National Journal's Ad Spotlight
Polling Data:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPoll (Roper Center) • Poll Track (National Journal Group)

For each, write an annotation that includes:

- the bibliographic entry as it will appear in your works cited page (Check with your instructor to find out which citation style he/she requires or recommends; then see [Citing Your Sources](#) on the [FP130 Research Guide](#) for examples and guidance)
- a short summary of the source
- evaluation of the quality of the source in terms of accuracy, authority, and overall usefulness
- how this source will support or refute your thesis

NOTE: For additional information and sample bibliographies, see the [Evaluating Sources Annotated Bibliography Assignment Tip Sheet](#).