

WRD 110

Annotated Bibliography and Research Presentation

Overview

In order to adeptly tell your person's or your community's story of difference, you must have a thorough understanding of the context of that individual/community's experience and history and a sense of how that experience and history fits into the context of the larger world. To that end, you must do extensive research from a variety of sources. Rather than waiting until the end of the semester to gather those sources, I want you to continue the process of gathering sources that you began during your project pitch assignment and have a thorough foundation of research before you proceed further with your project. Instead of gathering sources that simply support your already established ideas about your person or community, the research process should be a process of **inquiry** – you should have a topic and general concept in mind for your documentary, but your research should inform, shape, question, and challenge your established ideas. In essence, you should learn things from your research process that you didn't already know.

Guidelines

This assignment is made up of two components: an **annotated bibliography** and a **research presentation**.

The annotated bibliography – essentially a works cited page with a brief paragraph underneath each source that elaborates on your source's relevance to your project and summarizes the source's main points – **should include a *minimum of 7 sources from diverse and different materials***. I hope to see sources that are both **primary** (i.e. interviews, quotes, stories, and photographs generated by your person/community) and **secondary** (i.e. newspaper articles, news footage, magazine articles, journal articles, and books about subjects related to your person or community's experience or history) in nature, and you must have sources from at least four different categories listed here – in other words, you can't simply use several interviews and several photos and have those all count as individual sources. If you have questions about whether or not your sources qualify as “diverse,” please ask me early on. Do not wait until you turn in this assignment. You will be provided with a sample MLA annotated bibliography format to follow, and we will also discuss annotated bibliographies in class to help you better understand this format and my expectations.

The **research presentation** will simply be a brief presentation to me and to the class of what you discovered while researching and assembling your annotated bibliography. Your presentation should be approximately 3-5 minutes long, and you should prepare a PowerPoint so that you can quickly and adeptly review your sources, their main points, and their relevance to your project.

The annotated bibliography and research presentation together are worth 10 percent of your final grade.