World Literature Research for Fall 2013 Ms. Server

**Essential idea:** The purpose of this research project is to help you learn how to find and evaluate credible sources, develop a thesis statement, and create an outline for a paper. You will use your knowledge of these steps to write a research paper in the spring semester.

Standards: ELACC9-10RL1, ELACC9-10RI1, ELACC9-10W1, ELACC9-10L1, ELACC9-10L5

**Requirements:**

* You will create a thesis statement, paper outline, and annotated bibliography on a selected topic. Your annotations must be one solid paragraph each that summarizes, evaluates, and reflects on your source.
* You must use 6 credible sources from either websites ending in .edu, .gov, or .org or from electronic articles available through the media center (No Wikipedia!)
* You must use MLA format, including the proper headings, page numbers, and spacing. It must be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font.
* Your work must carefully proofread and edited.
* Late projects will result in a deduction of 10 points per day; remember, research counts as 15% of your final grade.
* **Projects are due: \_\_\_\_ (TBA)**

**What is an annotated bibliography?**

An annotated bibliography looks very similar to a works cited: it is a list of sources that you would use to write a paper and the source information is written in MLA format. However, in an annotation bibliography, each source entry is followed by a paragraph that summarizes, evaluates, and reflects on usefulness of the source. ***Note: You are not writing an actual research paper.***

Here are some questions/guidelines to help you write your annotations (paragraphs):

* **Summarize**: What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?
* **Evaluate**: Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources you’ve read? Is the.
* **Reflect**: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

Adapted from “Annotated Bibliographies” at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

For a good example go to: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/03/> or search the Purdue OWL website for information on annotated bibliographies.

**Topic ideas:**

Your thesis statement will show how an author’s life influenced his or her writing. You may choose from any of the writers we’ve read or will read this semester: Sophocles (*Oedipus Rex*),(*The Analects*), Herman Hesse (*Siddhartha*), William Shakespeare (*Julius Caesar*), Leo Tolstoy (“How Much Land Does a Man Need Word?” and “What Men Live By”), Anton Chekhov (“A Problem”), or Henrik Ibsen (*A Doll’s House*).

You could approach your thesis one of two ways: you could show how the author’s life experiences influenced his or her writing or how the time period the author lived in influenced his or her writing.

Here are two examples (using American lit authors):

Emily Dickinson’s fascination with death in her poetry was influenced by the many losses she experienced early in her life.

Having lived at a time when women had very little rights, but when the suffrage movement was beginning to take hold, Kate Chopin’s work often features women who feel trapped and desire more freedom.

**Steps for this project**

1. October 21: Select an author and let me know by October 22nd. Collect your 6 scholarly sources. Start reading them for thesis ideas.
2. October 22: Thesis statement is due. Read your sources and take notes.
3. October 24: Notes are due October 24th. Create your outline.
4. October 25: Outline is due on October 28th.\* Create your works cited page. Write your annotations (paragraphs).
5. October 30: Your rough draft of your annotated bibliography, thesis statement, and outline is due at the beginning of class. Work on editing and peer editing in class.
6. October 18: Your annotated bibliography, thesis statement, and outline are due at the end of class.

\* Indicates that there will be a progress check for a grade. However, I may check at other times as well to make sure you are making progress.

**Important things to keep in mind**

Media center and lab time: We will be in the media center on October 7 & 8 and in the computer lab October 14-18. If you require additional lab or media center time to complete your assignment, you are responsible for making arrangements and going on your own time.

Plagiarism: You must use parenthetical documentation for any ideas that are not your own and put quotations marks around words and phrases you borrowed from another source. All projects will be checked for plagiarism and any instances of plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and parental contact, per FCHS policy. You cannot makeup or redo the assignment.

Grading: Late papers will result in 10 points off per day. Please remember that this is worth 15% of your semester grade!

Resources: The Purdue OWL website (owl.english.purdue.edu) is a great website for seeing examples, learning MLA format, and checking grammar rules. Additionally, I am happy to meet with you after school if you want extra help. This is a huge part of your grade – take it very seriously and do not procrastinate!

*Return this sheet to Ms. Server when the final draft is due.*

Annotated Bibliography Checklist: Check the box *only* if it’s completed!

Name:

\_\_My research question is clearly stated in the first paragraph.

\_\_I have a total of six scholarly sources.

\_\_I have a total of 6 thorough paragraphs (each paragraph should have a summary, evaluation, and reflection)

\_\_I have used parenthetical documentation *after every thought/sentence that is not my own idea.*

\_\_My paper is in MLA format (12 pt. font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced, Header, Title etc)

\_\_I have a Works Cited page (in alphabetical order according to author’s last name).

\_\_I have proofread my paper *aloud* at least two times.

\_\_ I have had at least one peer review my paper.

Signature: X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_