Assignment: **Annotated Works Cited (15% of course grade)**

Due: Electronic copy due Wednesday, March 2, by 12:59 p.m. on Turnitin.
Print copy due Thursday, March 3, at the beginning of class.
Format: See instructions on the Assignment page of the web site
Word Count: as brief as possible without omitting relevant information

For this assignment, your annotation will consist of a summary of each of nine sources. Writing a summary is harder than it seems. Once you know how to summarize, however, you have mastered a skill you will use in most of your other classes and cannot escape in the working world whatever your job may be. Writing summaries will also teach you to perceive structure in writing on macro and micro levels, analyze structure while reading to determine meaning, and perceive degrees of subjectivity in writing.

**How to Do It**

Summarize each of the six short opinions of debaters in the New York Times forum “Room for Debate” section found on the assignments page of our course web site. (This may be replaced with a Room for Debate section chosen by class vote.) Using the UML library databases, find three recent quality articles relevant to the debate question and summarize them the same way. (“Recent” roughly means after 2010.)

1. Read each opinion, noting key ideas and considering its structure. Distinguish information from examples. Notice what information falls into the power positions of each sentence, paragraph, and author’s opinion as a whole.
2. For each opinion, write a one-sentence summary of each paragraph.
3. Then, see if you can make one compound sentence cover the author’s main idea(s). Some articles may require up to three sentences; others can be summarized with one. (Hint: a summary is usually more effective in a different order of informational than the original.)
4. Compare your draft to the proposal to make sure you have been accurate, complete, and objective. Watch for “loaded” words such as *even, merely, obviously,* etc. Stick with neutral words (e.g. “he believes that” is neutral; “he actually believes that” is not).
5. Review your draft to be sure you have not accidentally added outside information. You are presenting the author’s ideas and opinions, not your own.
6. Revise your draft, inserting transitional words and phrases for coherence. As always, check your grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Deploy commas for clarity. Pay special attention to verb tense agreement. If you choose to quote bits of an article, make sure your summary sentences are grammatical as a whole.
7. Cite each source in MLA format on a page titled Works Cited, followed by your summary of it. Your summaries have now become annotations.
8. Finally, your works cited project should have an original title. Don’t use the forum title or use the word “summary” in your title.
Your Objectives/My Evaluation

A successful summary is brief, accurate, and as objective as humanly possible.

**Brief** = no longer than 1/4 of the original article (usually much shorter).

**Objective** = reflects only what its author wrote, not your opinion or evaluation of either the article, the subject, the author, or the author’s style. Watch carefully for this one.

**Accurate** = contains all the information necessary to prevent misunderstanding of content as the author presented it. “Accurate” doesn’t require you to include each piece of data, but you must be sure you haven’t taken any point out of context.

**Brief/Accurate**

- ________________________________ +

**Objective (vs. Subjective)**

- ________________________________ +

**Reader-friendly Organization**

- ________________________________ +

**Grammar Goal: Verb tense agreement.** See WR 142-144. While APA and MLA style differ in the use of past or present tense to introduce material, both formats require present tense to refer to the content. Thus, you would write “X suggests” instead of “X suggested.”

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Your personal goal for this paper (may not be one of the above): ________________