

Critical Essay Annotated Bibliography *Due November 20th*

As one of the course goals is to introduce students to the disciplinary conventions of Literary Studies, one of the major assignments is to do the necessary research within the field to write an original interpretation of a literary text studied in the course.

The Critical Essay Annotated Bibliography, students will be required to find **10 sources (1-2 primary, 2-3 secondary, and 5-7 scholarly)** and **construct an argument** utilizing those sources. Each source must have a **précis**, and **correct bibliographic** information in **MLA Citation Style**. Students will write a **brief one-two paragraph summary** of their proposed argument in the Critical Essay, with a **strong thesis and outline** of how all sources would have been deployed.

Finding Good Sources

For any literary historian or literary critic, research is generally found in three forms:

- **Primary Sources:** primary sources written by the author. These can include original stories, essays, poems, or plays written by the author, as well as archival material by the author
- **Secondary Sources:** secondary sources are sources that are contemporaneous with the author. These sources help to shed light on aspects of the author's fictional work through a more thorough understanding of the historical situation at the time of writing. In general, secondary sources act to supply context for the literary work.
- **Scholarly Sources:** scholarly sources are sources that comment on or critique the primary sources. They are usually written by professional critics or literary historians. These sources are published through academic journals and presses; thus, they are thoroughly vetted as meeting the standards of academic critique.

Thesis Statements

A good thesis statement states something succinctly that can be argued
Argument claims have two major components

- Statement + Proof or
- Claim + Supporting Evidence

Précis Format

Use the following four-sentence format for your research sources.

- In a single coherent sentence give the following:
 - Name of the author, title of the work, date in parenthesis;
 - A rhetorically accurate verb (such as "assert," "argue," "deny," "refute," "prove," "disprove," "explain," etc.);
 - A **that** clause containing the major claim (thesis statement) of the work.
- In a single coherent sentence give an explanation of how the author develops and supports the major claim (**thesis statement**).
- In a single coherent sentence give a statement of the author's purpose, followed by an "in order" phrase.
- In a single coherent sentence give a description of the intended audience and/or the

relationship the author establishes with the audience.

MLA Format & Citation

Preparing a list of works cited:

Web Resource

Editor, author, or compiler name (if available). "Name of Article". *Name of Site*. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site (sponsor or publisher), date of resource creation (if available). Medium of publication. Date of access.

Book Resource

Lastname, Firstname. *Title of Book*. City of Publication, ST (if necessary): Publisher, Year of Publication. Medium of Publication.

Academic Article Resource

Author(s). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume.Issue (Year): pages. *Database Accessed* (if Web). Medium of Publication. Date of access (if Web).

The diagram shows a sample Works Cited list with several annotations:

- Double-Space everywhere:** A vertical double-headed arrow indicates that the text between entries is double-spaced.
- Hanging Intent:** A horizontal arrow points to the right, showing that the first line of each entry is aligned with the left margin, while subsequent lines are indented.
- 0.5" margin:** A vertical double-headed arrow on the right side indicates a 0.5-inch margin from the right edge of the page to the end of the text.
- 1" margin:** A horizontal double-headed arrow on the left side indicates a 1-inch margin from the left edge of the page to the start of the text.

The Works Cited list includes the following entries:

Frankel, Mark. "Duck Soup." *Turner Classic Movies*. Turner Entertainment Networks. Web. 12 Oct. 2013.

Gardner, Martin. *The Marx Brothers as Social Critics: Satire and Comic Nihilism in Their Films*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2009. Print.

Niland, Richard. "Say, Who Are You Anyway?": Clowns, Childhood, And Madness In The Character Of Harpo Marx." *Journal Of Popular Culture* 45.4 (2012): 828-845. *Literary Reference Center*. Web. 14 Sept. 2013.

Works Cited starts its own new page

- Last name and page number are still in the header, right aligned
- "Works Cited" centered (no special formatting) aligned with the top margin (1")
- Double spaced after "Work Cited," within source entries, and between entries
- List sources alphabetically
- First line of each entry is aligned with the left margin (1") and each subsequent line is indented 0.5" (Inverse of your body paragraphs)