

Annotated Bibliography and Essay Outline

Due: 20 October - must be submitted in hard copy to the professor in class.

Length: 2-4 pages

Evaluation: 10%

As part of the essay preparation, an annotated bibliography consisting of a variety of peer-reviewed sources (three minimum) will be handed in along with an outline for the essay. **Peer-reviewed** sources means books or articles available through the university library. Beware of Wikipedia and popular journalism, such as *Rolling Stone* magazine, *The Toronto Star*, *Pitchfork*, or other blogs and online sources — these sources can be useful, but need to be properly contextualized and balanced with proper scholarly sources. Encyclopaedias and dictionaries qualify as scholarly sources, but you can have a maximum of **one** of this kind of source. If you are unsure about whether or not a particular source is scholarly, ask a librarian or your professor. The following link is also helpful: <http://library.newpaltz.edu/assistance/scholar.html>

Begin with a detailed description of your final paper topic and then move into a description and assessment of sources relevant to this topic. These sources **must not** include the required readings for this course. Your bibliographies should give a sense of the materials dealt with in each piece, what issues the writer discusses, and an assessment of its suitability for the essay topic. This assignment should be 2-4 pages long, double-spaced.

A reminder JSTOR should NOT be listed in your bibliography (it's the equivalent of listing the shelf from which you took the book)—be sure to list the actual journal title, date, and article author in your reference list instead.

Citations should be single spaced, with second and subsequent lines indented.

A Possible Essay Outline

You may copy and paste this template for your own purposes, but you should have planned enough of your paper that you can fill in the outline with the specifics of what you plan to do.

Keep in mind that an introduction should a) introduce your topic; b) contain a thesis statement; and c) outline the structure of your paper. It should be brief, and it should avoid broad, pointless statements such as “Music is a universal language. Everybody, everywhere listens to music..” etc.

A. Introduction.

- i. Introduce subculture. Who are they? How do they use music? Why (briefly) are you interested in/affiliated with this topic? Keep brief.

- ii. Thesis Statement. (e.g, I will argue that this particular music scene has emerged in Toronto because of these conditions _____.)

***Keep in mind that this paper is not going to serve any other function. Do not make it an opinion piece on the state of the music industry; do not write about the general history of a genre and miss talking about a Toronto scene. The paper must be about a subculture or scene of music in Toronto.**

- iii. Brief overview of paper.

B. Body of the Essay. The body should *not* be three paragraphs, as you were taught in high school. Structure it according to your different sections. They *may* look something like this:

- i. Overview of the Genre.
 - Who are the main artists/record labels?
 - Where did the music originate?
 - What are the typical musical characteristics of the genre?
 - *This is the section where academic sources will be most available and useful.*
- ii. The Toronto Scene
 - Demographics of the scene's participants, (economic background, age, race, and gender).
 - Who/what supports the scene?
 - Who is in the audience?
 - What venues offer live performances of this music?
 - What media outlets feature this music (look at radio stations, TV, publications like NOW, The Grid, The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, and genre-specific magazines such as MapleBlues magazine).
 - What institutions support the scene, through training, education, or more concerts? (look at the universities, music schools, the Royal Conservatory of Music, folk or jazz clubs, etc.)
- iii. Case Study
 - Here is where you might discuss a particular venue that offers this music, or a local band. This section can be more descriptive, based on what you saw at your concerts, or based in what information you gather in online sources (such as a band's website, facebook page, etc.)

iv. Musical Analysis

This section is integrated into the body of your essay; it should not appear as a separate section.

- Here, you will analyze one or two musical pieces by an artist from the genre you discuss. They may be local, or they will have played here at one of the venues you discuss. Analyze musical parameters such as timbre, form, texture, dynamics, melody, harmony, and tempo, and connect my analysis to what I have learned about the musical characteristics of the genre.

iv. Connections between Scene, The City, Identity, and Music

- Why is this music successful here? (population, diversity, availability of venues, etc.)
- Connect your discussion to larger issues of identity, participation, cultural, economic, demographic, and political forces at work in the city, possibly the role of migration and settling in a new home, and the role music can play in creating or reinforcing a social identity.

C. Conclusion. Here, re-state the thesis, briefly review findings and conclusion, and connect all of the issues raised.

Here is an example of an annotated bibliography entry in Chicago style:

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995. Print.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.

Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach. Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part I address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.