

Annotated Bibliography

I hope to provide you with an opportunity to explore a large body of literature relevant to sustainable community development during our course. As a professional you will need to identify, organize and maintain various bodies of literature that are relevant to your work. You need to be able to identify particularly valuable contributions to the literature, create a database of these contributions, and be able to find specific items without resorting to repeating the original search. Annotated bibliographies are one efficient way to do this.

An annotation is ***not the same thing as an abstract***. The author(s) of a contribution create the abstract, which is a highly summarized statement of the content of a publication from the author's perspective. You, the user of the information, create an annotation which reflects *your perspectives*. Annotations can be descriptive (like a very abbreviated abstract) or evaluative. In this class you will submit an **evaluative annotation**.

Submit the annotated bibliography as a single-spaced Word document titled with your last name and Annotated_Biblio. Do **not** fall behind in building your annotated bibliography. When that happens, the task becomes onerous and does not help you during this class. If you create annotations regularly, preferably every week, as part of your reading for class it helps your class preparation – turns two tasks into one to some degree. ***You may include a maximum of five required readings***. All other annotations should be additional materials that you find or that I include in the lists of Additional Resources each week. Annotations should be **brief, written in a “bulleted point” style**. Each annotation should consist of the four components listed below.

1. A complete citation in APA style.
2. A list of no more than three key words or phrases that reflect the content of most interest to you (example: organic agriculture, food elitism, community conflict).
3. A brief summary of the content of the item: no more than three sentences, **no more than 125 words**.
4. A brief summary of the contributions to the body of knowledge *from your perspective* – e.g., the value of the work for you: **no more than 200 words**. The four points in this list are 197 words. Consider these factors as you make your evaluation. You will probably have to decide *which are most important* because you will probably not be able to address all five given the word limit.
 - a. Does it provide pertinent information about what we already know about the topic?
 - b. Does the item provide new information or ideas to you?
 - c. Are the ideas expressed supported by data and other literature?
 - d. Does the item encourage you to think about the topic in more depth or explore new ideas about the topic?
 - e. Does the item make you reconsider or expand your own ideas about the topic?