

Research Project: Annotated Bibliography

Investigate the current debate about raising the minimum wage. Report your findings and draw conclusions based on your research.

- What are the current minimum wage laws?
- What proposals have been made for raising the minimum wage?
- What are the possible benefits and risks of raising the minimum wage?
- How would workers, employers, and the overall economy be impacted?
- Who is participating in this debate? (Who is for and who is against?)
- Based on your findings, do you support or oppose raising the minimum wage?

You will conduct research on the issue of the minimum wage. To report your findings, you will create an **Annotated Bibliography** of the **7 sources** you find.

Following your 7 entries (about **4-5 pages** of writing in total), you will write a **concluding section of 2 pages in your own words in which you take a position on the issue and draw conclusions** based on your research. In this conclusion, you will look at the issue as a whole and synthesize ideas.

Due Dates

Tues. 11/24: Peer Review of 2 bibliography entries

Thurs. 12/10: **Annotated Bibliography due**

This research assignment is worth **20%** of your course grade. Your project must be the product of your own thought, words, and effort. Essays that contain plagiarism earn a zero and cannot be revised.

What are appropriate sources for a college-level research project?

The following types of sources are **appropriate** and you should **use at least one of each type**:

- Articles from the *New York Times*
- Sources found using the library database *Opposing Views in Context*
- Sources found using the library database *LexisNexis Academic*
- Webpages with a .gov address
- An interview that you conduct with someone impacted by this issue
- Articles from reliable online news source such as *National Public Radio*, *The New Yorker*, *PBS*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, or *CNN*.

What kinds of sources are not appropriate?

You may NOT use the following types of sources:

- .com websites
- Blogs
- Sources published before 1995 (unless you have a good reason)
- Wikipedia
- Personal anecdotes

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a bibliography (list) of your research sources with a paragraph describing each source. Scholars use annotated bibliographies to help keep track of their research and to present their findings to other researchers.

Each of your 7 annotated bibliography entries will contain the following components:

- Bibliographic entry in correct MLA format
- **4-5 sentence accurate summary** of the source in your own words (topic and argument, as it is relevant to your paper).
- **4-5 sentence commentary on what each source reveals about your topic**

Your annotated bibliography will be listed in alphabetical order.

Sample Annotated Bibliography Entry:

Brews, Dominic J., Eric R. Eide, and Ronald G. Ehrenberg. "Does it Pay to Attend an Elite Private College? Cross Cohort Effects of College Type on Earnings." *Journal of Human Resources* 34.1 (Winter 1999): 104-123.

Colleges and universities in the U.S. are ranked yearly by the magazine *U.S. News and World Report*. The authors of this article ask whether attending an elite private university rather than a lower ranked private university pays off in future job earnings. Based on their research, they conclude that graduates of higher-ranked private universities earn more competitive salaries than graduates of middle-ranked private institutions. From 1972 to the 1980's, they show, the earnings increased dramatically. At the same time, they acknowledge, tuition rates have climbed sharply.

It's not surprising that attending a higher-ranked university leads to better pay. The authors provide numerical data that shows that the reliability of university ranking systems does matter. It may be unfair that a school's reputation impacts a student's future employment prospects, but it is a reality. If college rankings are unreliable, it hurts students of schools that are rated unfairly, because their pay will be lower than graduates of supposedly better schools. The article also suggests that schools use their ranking to justify higher tuition costs, which also seems unfair if the rankings are unreliable.