Instruct Multimedia Aligned with Research Assignment

Aligning Instruct multimedia to your assignments is a great way to support students with information literacy instruction without as they work on research projects throughout the semester. Scaffolding a research project into separated concrete steps (submitting a topic, thesis statement, outline, initial sources, etc.) is considered a best practice for assessing student's process and critical thinking skills, in addition to assessing their final product, i.e. a paper or report.

Feel free to use the example assignment on Annotated Bibliography below as a template for breaking down (scaffolding) a research assignment into discrete steps. See the accompanying table for how Instruct can be used at specific steps of this assignment.

Example Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

Annotations help students describe, evaluate, and reflect upon sources they have encountered during their research projects. This example assignment requires students to engage in library database research in order to locate, evaluate, and cite sources relevant to their research topic.

In this handout you will find:

- Sample Annotated Bibliography Assignment
  - Instructions and Steps
  - Annotation Practice
  - Assignment Check Sheet
- Instruct Multimedia Mapping

To complete this assignment, you will locate, evaluate, and cite at least 8 sources related to your research topic. Be sure to check the Assignment Check Sheet for specific requirements from your instructor.

1. **Identify your research question.** Make sure the scope of your research question is appropriate for the assignment requirements. If you're having trouble choosing 8 relevant sources, you may need to narrow the scope of your question. Enter your research question in the box below (it's ok to update it as you gather sources).

2. **Identify the 8 sources you will include in your annotated bibliography.** Make note of the 8 sources in the space below. Be sure to include any information about the source you will need to create a proper citation in MLA style.

3. **Summarize the article or book.** Repeat this step for each of the 8 sources. First, identify the main argument, the purpose of the source, topics it covers, and conclusions it may draw (if it is a research study).

4. **Assess the source in terms of usefulness and reliability.** Repeat this step for each of the 8 sources.
   - In terms of **usefulness**, consider how it fits into your research question, how it might help you shape your argument, and how you could use it in answering your research question.
   - In terms of **reliability**, consider both the quality of the platform (web pages? journal? publisher?) and any biases you may have detected.

Tip: Make sure that you do not use the exact same introductory phrase for every entry; find some variety in order to keep the interest of the reader.

5. **The bibliographic expression or statement**—information you would include in a works cited list. Be sure to use the MLA citation style. Correctness of this form will be evaluated.

Double space from the bibliographic statement and begin the annotation. ALWAYS refer to the author/s by LAST NAME only—no need to include first name since it is already in the bibliographic statement.

1. Write the bibliographic statement for the Norberg-Hodge article on p.165 in our text:

2. Make notes that offer a summary of the article:

Her thesis:

Her conclusions:

Her evidence:

3. Write the summary in full sentences:

4. Consider some ways to "change up" the introductory sentence. For example:

    By studying the ways…..Norberg-Hodge ……

    Offering evidence from field research, Norberg-Hodege…..

    In her article, Norberg-Hodge….

    It is suggested in Norberg-Hodge's article that….

Come up with some of your own alternatives in the space below.

5. Assess the article in terms of addressing the research question: "What kinds of activities change cultures?" How well does the article answer or address the question? Would it be useful in a research project addressing this question?

6. Write your analysis/assessment here:

Annotated Bibliography Check Sheet

Does your bibliography have:

☐ A fully stated research question that is appropriately narrow?

☐ At least 8 sources?

☐ Properly formatted MLA bibliographic statements? (check to make sure the sources have been appropriately identified; ask if you are not sure)

☐ Sources are listed in ALPHABETICAL order by author's last name (or title if there is no author)

☐ Appropriately identified author (especially in web sites)?

☐ A mix of scholarly and other "high quality" sources? (ask if you are not sure or visit the Source Types tutorial)

☐ Blog posts, short news articles, magazines, or other websites that may not have high credibility? (if so, find alternative sources)

☐ "Out dented" first lines; indented lines after the first?

☐ Annotations begin on a line separate from the bibliographic statement?

☐ Consistent 12 point font in Times New Roman or Arial?

Do your annotations have:

☐ A mixture of introductory phrases?

☐ A summary of the MAIN idea/s of each source?

☐ An assessment of the USEFULNESS or RELEVANCE of the sources for answering or addressing the research question?

☐ An assessment of the QUALITY of the source and its origin with a brief explanation?

Edit the annotation if it:

☐ Does not adequately accomplish the above listing

☐ Is too short (offers little in the way of explanation or example)

☐ Is too long (offers too much detail)

☐ Is close in wording and structure to the abstract offered in the database or the article itself

☐ Refers to authors by their first names

☐ Each bibliographic entry is numbered

☐ Lines are not double spaced

☐ Upper case words in titles or articles are italicized

☐ Contains spelling and/or grammatical errors

Instruct Multimedia Mapping

Assignment Component	Relevant Instruct Multimedia	Multimedia Description
Intro: Definition of an annotation	Tutorial: Annotated Bibliographies	Use this tutorial to help students identify the purpose, structure, and content of annotated bibliographies and create their own annotations.
Step 1: Identify your research question	Tutorial: Developing a Research Focus	In this tutorial, students will be introduced to pre-research techniques to determine the scope and depth of their research focus.
	Video: How to Narrow Your Topic	This video will outline the process to help students hone in on a compelling research topic with appropriate scope using strategies like strategic searching.
Step 3: Summarize the article or book	Tutorial: Synthesizing Information	This video focuses on strategies for tying together ideas from multiple sources, including identifying main ideas, and paraphrasing and summarizing techniques.
Step 4: Assess the source for usefulness and reliability	Tutorial: Evaluating Information	Students will become familiar with strategies for evaluating sources based on these criteria: authority, accuracy, currency, relevance, and objectivity.
	VIdeo: What is Authority?	Use this video to introduce students to the concept of authority, how it relates to research, source selection, evaluation, and attribution.
	Video: Intro to Bias	This video introduces the idea of bias and prejudice and the importance of awareness of one's own bias and the bias of others when evaluating sources and situations, and responding to arguments.
	Video: Types of Bias	This video builds on the introduction to bias video by discussing specific types of bias such as social bias, confirmation bias, and communal reinforcement.
Step 4: Use a variety of sentence structures	Video: Writing Help	This video focuses on some of the most important elements of successful writing with an emphasis on mechanics, including concision, clarity, sentence variety and transitions, spelling and grammar, and seeking out resources for writing help.
Structure Step 1: Create a bibliographic expression	Tutorial: MLA 8th Edition Citation Style	Use this tutorial to provide students with an overview of the MLA 8th Edition citation style, including both in-text citation format and works cited format. Tutorial also includes several "check your understanding" questions with drag and drop exercises where students can format citations of different source types properly.
Check Sheet Requirement: Use a mix of scholarly and other high quality sources	Tutorial: Source Types	Use this tutorial to help students locate, recognize, and evaluate relevant sources to meet their research needs.
	Tutorial: How to Read Scholarly Materials	This tutorial will walk students through the types and components of scholarly materials as well as strategies for strategic reading.
Check Sheet Requirement: Avoid low-credibility sources	Tutorial: Source Types	Use this tutorial to help students locate, recognize, and evaluate relevant sources to meet their research needs.
	Tutorial: Choosing the Best Web Source	With so much information available online, it's important for students to be able to locate reliable, high quality information. Use this tutorial to introduce strategies for navigating the open web and evaluating web sources.