Annotated Bibliography Assignment Instructions

Purpose: The purpose of writing an annotated bibliography is to summarize and analyze your collected sources to prepare to make your argument. Engaging in the process of writing an annotated bibliography will help you formulate and organize the final research project and allow you to understand your argument on a deeper level. You will also likely be able to use some of the writing you create for the annotated bibliography in your final research project.

Assignment: For each of the required sources (as outlined on the research project instructions), read and annotate. Each annotation will consist of two parts for each source: a summary and an analysis.

Summary: summarize the content of the source, making note of the type of source (book, magazine article, peer-reviewed journal article, etc.). Make sure your summary is not too brief and not overly lengthy. Assume that your source has not been read by the audience for the annotated bibliography. Include in the summary, indicate the writer's thesis or argument.

Annotation: analyze the source by discussing the writer's authority, how that authority is established, the veracity of the publication, and the logic behind the claims made in the source. If there are any detriments to the authority of the source, be sure to mention them. You should include an indication of how you can use the source in your final research project.

Tips for a successful annotated bibliography:
- Use the present tense and the author's last name when discussing a source. For example:
  - Hemmingway concludes that humans are inherently in competition with the nature world.
  - Oates provides a detailed explanation of her visit to a prison in Connecticut.
  - Obama informs Americans and the world that Osama bin Laden has been found and executed on his orders
- Use limited quotations in the bibliography, and only when quotations are the best and most concise way of communicating. For example:
  - Oates argues that, "identities are provisional..." (196).
- Limit each summary to one fully developed paragraph
- Limit each annotation to one fully developed paragraph

Format: use MLA format for the annotated bibliography. Follow the format sheet given out along with the assignment instructions.

Due dates: There are several due dates for the annotated bibliography. We will have peer review in class, we will conference one-on-one about the annotated bibliography, and you will submit a final draft. Consult the most recent course calendar in the LMS to determine the exact dates of these activities. Failure to come to class prepared for peer review (all of the required sources summarized and annotated with two hard copies of the draft printed and stapled) or to miss your scheduled conference, will result in a significant grade reduction.
Elizabeth A. Bryant-Richards

ENG 660

Professor Smartypants

12 February 2003

Lucy Grealy and Frida Kahlo: Connections in Disability and the Artists' Relationships with Their Health Care Professionals
An Annotated Bibliography

Argument: The writer and poet Lucy Grealy and the painter Frida Kahlo each used their unique experience of disability in their respective creations. Grealy's memoir and Kahlo's self-portraits present women artists who labor to understand and present their identities in a world that values traditional beauty. Due to the ongoing nature of their disabilities, both Kahlo and Grealy had relationships with physicians that were deeper and more profound than typical. Grealy's and Kahlo's relationships with medical professionals influenced their relationships with their disabilities, identities, and ultimate had significant impact on their lives and work as artists.


Grealy's memoir about her experience of childhood cancer, which left her disfigured from surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy, is a heartbreaking account of survival. She had Ewing's sarcoma, which presented in her jaw at the age of nine. Grealy writes about her diagnosis, treatment, and extended hospital stays, interspersed with her life at home, which include highly dysfunctional family dynamics. Going into adulthood and beyond, Grealy outlines her search for identity, her exploration of truth and beauty, and her intense desire for a "normal" face.

The slim volume not only focuses on Grealy's childhood experiences, but also includes information about significant relationships with friends and pivotal doctors she encountered over the years in which she had over 30 surgeries in her effort to re-make her face. Repeated surgical failures and disappointments lead Grealy to question her identity and place in a culture that values female beauty standards.


Herrera's biography is considered the essential guide to the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Chapter five goes into depth about Kahlo's relationship with her personal physician of 30 years, Dr. ....

In Herrera's telling, Kahlo clearly has a co-dependent manipulative relationship with Dr. S., leading to some unnecessary and even dangerous procedures. Kahlo courts the attention of Dr. S and seems proud of her stoic ability to undergo numerous invasive spine surgeries....