

Directions for the Annotated Bibliography

Sociology 4331. Spring 2019

The Annotated Bibliography is the result of a three-step process that engages you with the way we do research. A brief description of the process and point values assigned is below. Starting on the next page, I've also written a model, the formatting of which is precise and important.

1. A Troubling Problem. (21 points).

This is a 2 page or so double-spaced essay that is a gut-level starting point. You describe and react to something going on in our world that you care about deeply and would like to investigate. By gut-level, I mean something that bothers you or intrigues you such that you have an emotional connection to the matter. This could also be something with which you have some personal or family experience. The essay has three parts:

- a. What's up with this? 7 points
- b. Why it matters to me. 7 points
- c. Why it matters in my world 7 points

Each part of the essay is worth 7 points and the basis for getting the points is your framing it as something of emotional as well as academic importance to you. Spill your guts for a couple of pages. (Research is difficult and tedious, and if you don't care deeply, you'll never finish).

2. The Research Question, Variables, and Hypothesis. (4 points)

- A. What is the relationship between _____ and _____ ?
- B. Independent variable. (Frequency of ... Incidence of ...)
- C. Dependent variable. (Frequency of ... Incidence of ...)
- D. Hypothesis: The (higher) the _____ the (lower) the _____.
(can be greater/lesser, more/less, etc.)

3. Sources. (15 points)

Construct a listing of at least 15 sources from peer-reviewed scholarly journals. (See below on how to identify these types of publications.) This is the result of your searching through the online database SocINDEX. Cite these sources in accord with ASA (American Sociological Association) style guidelines. Alphabetize your sources according to the first author's last name.

Annotate (summarize) the key findings of each article and relate those findings to your research question. (Again, use the example below as a guide.)

A scholarly journal is a periodical that publishes original research that has been peer reviewed. You can tell if you're looking at a publication of this type by watching for the following criteria:
The title of the publication includes the word "Journal." For example:
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion; Journal of Health and Social Behavior

The title contains the name of an academic discipline:
American Sociological Review; American Journal of Sociology

Authors are affiliated with universities; articles are preceded by an abstract; articles have extensive bibliographies. If you are unsure, check with me or the library reference staff.

Example follows – Format your work PRECISELY at shown below:

Annotated Bibliography

Part 1: A Troubling Problem:

What's up with this?

I've been teaching and doing research at colleges and universities for over twenty-five years. And guess what? College students drink alcohol. When I take a class poll during lecture of how many (mostly) first year students have NEVER taken a full drink, very few raise their hands. Most college students have at least tried drinking, usually in high school, and they continue to drink more once they get to college.

A beer or two now and then is one thing. But what's most frightening to me is how many students seem to drink a lot, and quickly. Binge drinking can put us in very dangerous situations. Driving or riding in a car. Alone in a dark room with someone stronger and more aggressive than we are. Oddly, I've learned over the years that a noticeable number of my students tell me drinking heavily – binging – is fairly common among those they know to be very religious.

Lubbock is a very conservative place, and the most prominent form of religion is Christian fundamentalism. Yet Fundamentalist Christians tend to regard alcohol use as sinful, especially binging on booze for the sole purpose of getting drunk. Not to mention that most first and second year students are under the legal age to drink at all. So they're breaking the law, too.

What's up with this?

Why it matters to me.

My high school yearbook has a memorial page. Two of my classmates were killed even before they got a chance to get to college because they were in a car with a fellow classmate who was driving drunk. Though it didn't happen to me in high school, I vividly remember once in

college being in the exact same situation. And we got away with it. I feel many things at once when I think about this. Guilty. Sad. Grateful. What were we thinking? We weren't, obviously. We had the chance to get some beer, we got it, we drank it all as fast as we could, and we got lucky. We didn't have to drink that way. We could have enjoyed one or two, watched a movie, and called it a night. I know that was also true for the kids whose pictures are on the last page of my yearbook.

I've had a fairly long and reasonably successful life so far. It could have easily ended one stupid night almost fifty years ago. I wonder what my classmates could have done, could have become, or could have taught us had they lived? That's why it matters to me.

Why it matters in my world.

We are very good at teaching young people to safely do dangerous things. Many twelve-year old Texans own high-powered rifles and hunt with them regularly. They've been carefully taught strict safety measures, by their parents or in hunter safety classes. Most sixteen-year olds have driver's licenses and have been carefully taught – by parents and in Driver's Ed. - to safely operate an extremely dangerous machine that is full of explosives. We formally and intentionally teach kids to handle a .30-06 rifle. Or drive an F150 pickup. But put a 12-pack of beer in the room? Heavens, don't touch it until you're twenty-one, and then HAVE AT IT!

Why this odd disparity? It seems to have something to do with religion. We can't teach safer drinking because drinking alcohol is a sin. Yet, when many good Christian college students are away from home supervision, it's as though they don't know what to do. It's like getting car keys or a rifle with no real instructions: "Figure it out." I think young people drink foolishly sometimes because no one has taught them how NOT to. The people who could and yet don't - the adults in the room – are often very religious. That's why it matters in my world.

Part 2: The Research Question, Variables, and Hypothesis:

- A. What is the relationship between RELIGION and DEVIANCE?
- B. Independent variable: Level of Christian Fundamentalism (Scale Score).
- C. Dependent variable: Frequency of underage binge drinking
- D. Hypothesis: The higher the Fundamentalism score the higher the incidence of binge drinking.

Part 3: Sources:

Humphrey, John A., Paul Leslie, and Jean Brittain. 1989. "Religious Participation, Southern University Women, and Abstinence." *Deviant Behavior* 10:145-155.

These researchers gathered survey data by distributing questionnaires to over 1000 African and Anglo-American female undergraduates. These women attended college at two state schools in the south. The data revealed that the more women attended worship services on a regular basis, the more likely they were to abstain from alcohol, and the less likely they were to use both alcohol and other drugs. Those who attended worship only occasionally were more likely to use alcohol as well as other drugs than were regular attenders.

Richard, Alan J., David C. Bell, and Jerry W. Carlson. 2000. "Individual Religiosity, Moral Community, and Drug User Treatment." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 39:240-246.

These researchers examined whether or not an increase in church attendance led to a decrease in the use of alcohol and other drugs. They gathered survey data by conducting interviews with a group of addicts both at the time of their intake into treatment, and then again six to ten months later. They found that, as addicts increased their participation in attending church services, they reduced their alcohol consumption. Moreover, an increase in church attendance also led to a reduction in cocaine use.

Your work will have fifteen of these. BE SURE to alphabetize them by the lead author's last name and format each of the citations correctly according to ASA guidelines.