



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

The Writing Center Presents:

Annotated Bibliographies

Developed by: Joy Patterson



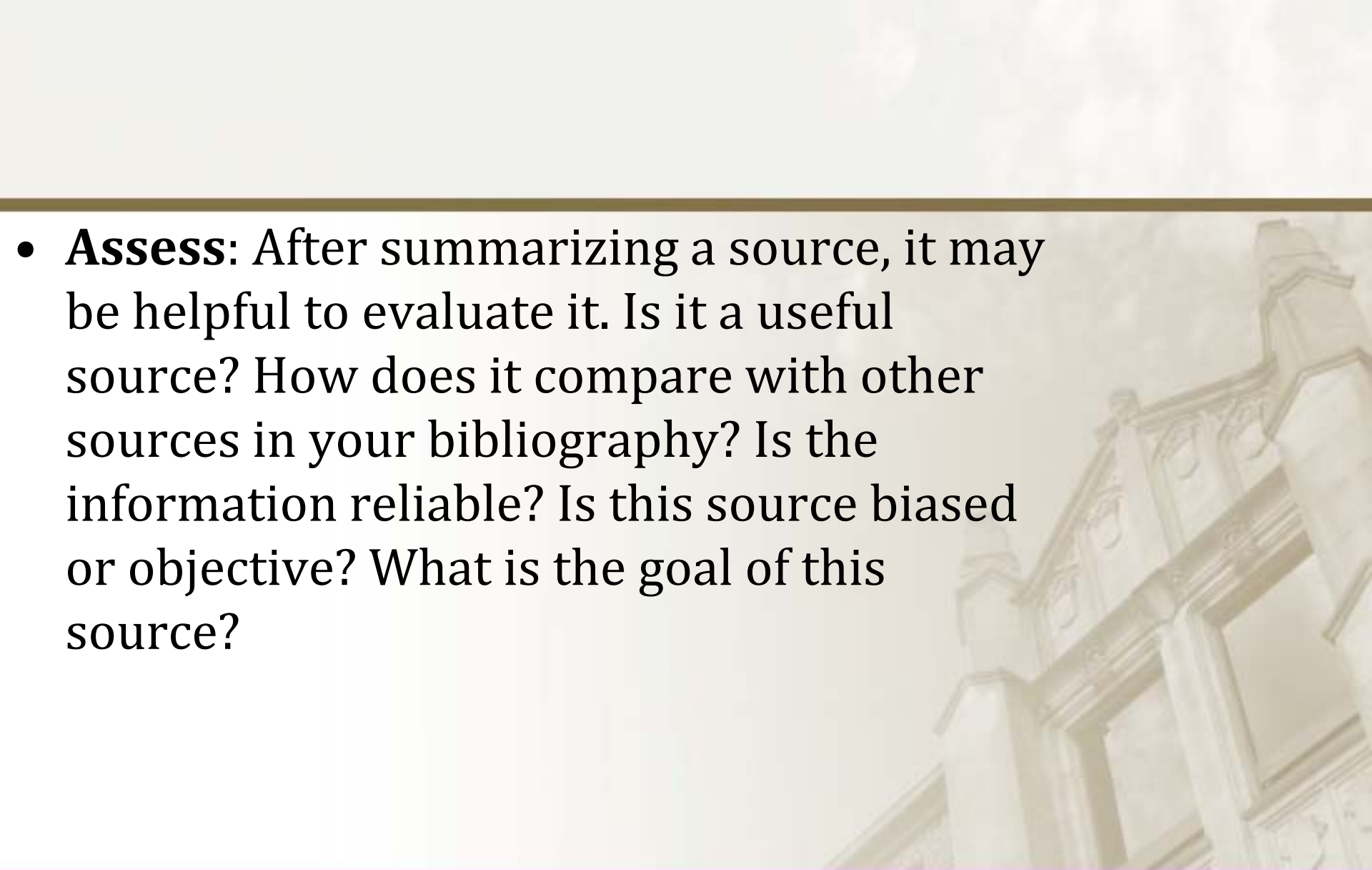
Annotated Bibliography

- An annotated bibliography builds on this basic citation by adding a brief summary and/ or evaluation of each source. After the initial entry, a writer adds several sentences that comment on the source's content and its relevance to his or her research.

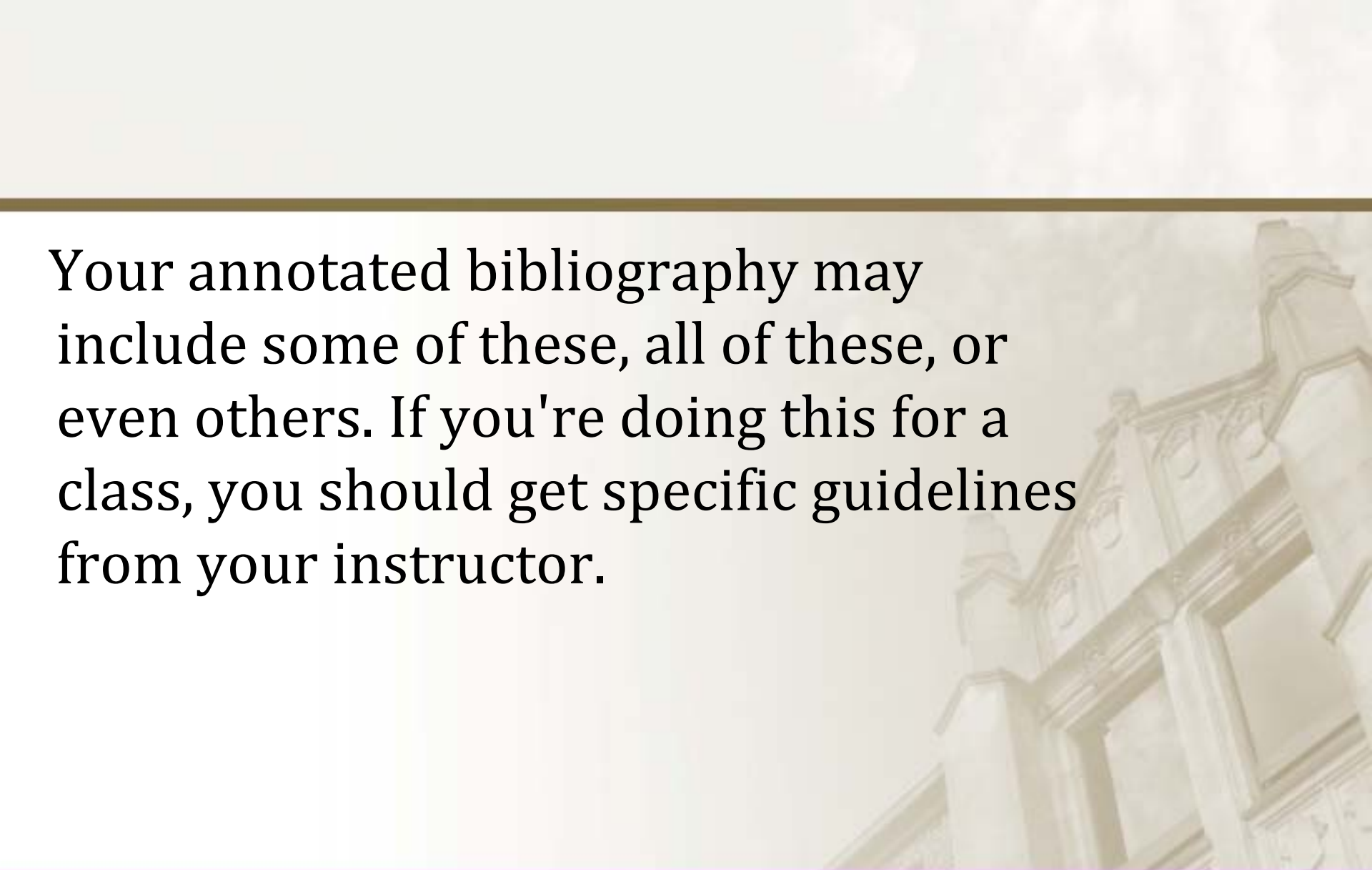
- Annotated bibliographies assist writer in the early stages of research gathering. By taking the time to write a brief summary and evaluation of each source you locate on your topic, you create building materials that you can use when it comes time to narrow your focus and start outlining and drafting.

Elements of an Annotation

- **Summarize:** Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.

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- **Assess:** After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?

- **Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?



Your annotated bibliography may include some of these, all of these, or even others. If you're doing this for a class, you should get specific guidelines from your instructor.

Sample MLA Annotation

Harbord, Janet. *The Evolution of film: Rethinking Film Studies*. Cambridge: Polity 2007. Print. A synthesis of classic film theory and examination of the contemporary situation of film studies that draws on recent scholarship in philosophy, anthropology, and media studies.

Sample APA Annotation

Ehrenreich, B. (2001). *Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America*. New York: Henry Holt and Company. In this book of nonfiction based on the journalist's experiential research, Ehrenreich attempts to ascertain whether it is currently possible for an individual to live on a minimum-wage in America. Taking jobs as a waitress, a maid in a cleaning service, and a Wal-Mart sales employee, the author summarizes and reflects on her work, her relationships with fellow workers, and her financial struggles in each situation.

All Information Obtained From:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 5th ed.

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