

BUS 230: Business and Economics Research and Communication
Group Project Assignment: Annotated Bibliography
Instructor: James Murray

Purpose: One approach to identify a question is to conduct a *literature review*, that is to explore published research that has already been conducted which is related to your problem. A literature review is also an essential component of the introduction to your research paper. A review of existing literature is used to 1) introduce your reader to relevant background knowledge on the topic and 2) motivate your research question by identifying some aspect of the topic that is important to be answered.

Learning Outcomes:

- LO-1: Develop the ability to define a research problem. Formulate research questions and hypotheses that are measurable, well-defined, address the overall problem, are directly related, and reflect the scope of the problem.
- LO-4: Develop the ability to effectively communicate research results both written and orally.
- CBA LO-1: Develop the ability to convey information and ideas effectively.
- CBA LO-2: Decision Making and Critical Thinking - Have the ability to think critically when evaluating decisions.

Directions: Work in your groups and find 6 journal articles (not popular media articles like newspapers or magazines) related to your topic. The following are good places to start looking:

- Murphy Library Databases <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/research/popular.htm>.
- Google Scholar: <http://scholar.google.com>.

For each of the journal article, address the following:

1. Write the bibliography information in APA format (You can use the *Purdue Online Writing Lab* website for help on APA formatting: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>).
2. Write a brief description of the article (5-6 sentences).
3. Write in 1-3 sentences why you want to include a citation of this article in your paper. You do not want to cite every journal article on a topic for your paper. You should consider at least one of the following for each article:
 - Background: Does this article provide important background information that is not common knowledge? Is this background knowledge important for your audience to understand or appreciate your paper?
 - Motivation: Does the journal article's introduction or conclusion suggest that work along the lines of your research project is important? Does it answer a *related* question, suggesting answering your question is also important?
 - Justification: Can this article justify the choices you make for your project? Does the research project described in this journal article make some of the same decisions that you will make in how to go about answering your research question? Will you use similar survey questions, compute similar statistics, etc?

Refer the the *Purdue Online Writing Lab* for more information about annotated bibliographies: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/1/>.

Type up your annotated bibliography and submit to the appropriate D2L dropbox folder.