

WEEKLY READING REPORTS

In first quarter, each week, you should complete two reading assignments and document them (in second quarter, this will decrease to one per week). **You will submit one full page, including the citation for the source and an annotation.** Annotations are critical notes from a reading and personal comments on that reading.

The one page summary should be:

- Typed
- Double Spaced
- 12 point readable font
- Name in upper left corner followed by class period
- Include the heading, “**Week of _____**”
- Under the heading, type the citation in the appropriate format (MLA or APA)
- After the citation, annotate the source.
- Using *Italics* or Underlining are considered the same thing – choose one and be consistent.

Each reading should be typed on its own page, and each should fill one full page.

NOTE: Be certain to save all returned annotated source entries because you will need to make corrections and turn in a final annotated source list at the end of first marking quarter, which consists of 20 entries.

PURPOSE OF THE READING REPORT

The reading reports will eventually make up the annotated source list. The reason for creating an annotated source list is so that you and others can go back to your sources and determine if they were useful or not. Remember, the purpose of “authentic, scholarly research” is to share it with others. Medical researchers do not research to discover cures for diseases only to put their research in a filing cabinet somewhere. It is meant to educate others and to build a knowledge base for future researchers. By annotating your sources, you can inform people who are coming after you whether or not that particular source is useful. You would not want someone to waste his/her research time reading something that would not benefit or contribute to answering his/her research question. You need to remember that your research is not just about you; rather, it is about a wide audience who would benefit from your new knowledge.

HOW DO I DO IT?

Read your source carefully, highlighting all of the information that you think is significant. Afterwards compose a summary paragraph of the information you found in the source. Your summary should be thorough, about five articulate sentences. This summary should reflect the essence of the source. Finally comment on the source in approximately two sentences. This commentary is your opinion about the article. Think about what you read, and use these questions to guide your commentary piece.

- Was it useful/not useful? Why/why not?
- What was effective/ineffective about the article?
- In what ways was it helpful/not helpful?

FORMATTING – MLA OR APA?

You may use NoodleTools to help you format your citations correctly. MLA and APA are the two formats most commonly used. Once you choose one, you must use it for all of your citations. Students in Humanities courses (like English and Social Studies) are usually asked to follow the style MLA guidelines. Students in Science (social, behavioral, and physical) and research fields are usually asked to follow the

APA guidelines. The primary reason for using a standardized reference format like MLA or APA is so that a professional peer (in the same discipline as the writer) can understand the syntax and relocate the writer's sources. The MLA Handbook provides much more detail about citing books, anthologies, audiovisual material, and other sources like interviews, advertisements, and cartoons that a high school student would be more likely to use in a research paper. In contrast, the emphasis in the APA Publication Manual is on sources that students would typically only encounter in advanced research, such as technical reports, proceedings of meetings, and dissertations.

REAL LIFE CONNECTION

You actually go through this process all of the time. Think about when you are scheduling your classes for the upcoming school year. You inquire about which classes to take by talking to friends who have already taken the courses. You ask them to tell you what a particular course is all about; in other words, you ask them to **summarize** the course for you. Then you ask them to comment on it. Did they like it? What did they like/not like? What was the teacher like? Did they like him/her? Why/why not? You get a **commentary/opinion** from them about the course.

PERTINENT DETAILS ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

Remember that your sources do not and should not simply be articles/chapters in books. You can and should also consult maps, charts, graphs, books, periodicals, electronic sources, interviews, brochures etc. As well, be certain to make a copy of anything you will be reading or using in your annotated bibliography so that later in the year, when you sit down to write your paper, you can consult the source in its entirety for more specific information.

SAMPLE ANNOTATED SOURCE ENTRY

(The following example is partially fabricated for the purpose of an example. Note you are being shown the citation in both MLA and APA for your comparison, that the annotation should be double-spaced, and your paper should include the appropriate heading.)

MLA:

Brownlee, Shannon. "Baby Talk." *U.S. News and World Report* 15 June 1998. 30 Oct. 1999
<<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/980615/15lang.htm>>.

APA:

Brownlee, S. (15 June 1998). Baby Talk. *U.S. News and World Report*. Retrieved October 20, 1999 from U.S. News and World Report Website: [Http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/980615/15lang.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/issue/980615/15lang.htm)

This article discusses the latest research regarding children's acquisition of language during the first few months and years of life. The research suggests that children quickly learn to pick up language, words, and grammar even before they can talk themselves. Through listening and comprehension children acquire language and grammar at a surprising rate. The source provided several specific studies of children around the world. Often children create their own language at first until they finally acquire the proper words to help them fulfill their own needs. The study determined that language is pre-wired into children's brains before their birth. As well, if children are exposed to multiple languages early on, they are more likely to learn the language than at a later age. Parents often neglect to expose their children to sufficient language skills early on because they fail to see the ability of babies. This article describes a monumental discovery of children, language and the timing of their speech.

This article was very helpful since it addresses many different types of development in great depth. Although not every section could be used for my purpose, overall the information will be beneficial to answering my research question. I would consider looking for articles like this one because of the specific medical terminology that was used and easily comprehensible to the average reader.