

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

**Purpose:** One approach to identify and motivate a research question is to conduct a *literature review*. A literature review explores published research that has already been conducted which is related to your problem. A literature review is often an essential component of a research proposal, a research report, or an academic 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.

In this assignment, you will conduct the background research that can inform a literature review. The purpose of an annotated bibliography is to document and organize existing literature that you read that you can use in your research.

**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 8 articles related to your topic. **At least 5 of the articles must be peer-reviewed, published, academic research.** The other 3 articles may be popular press articles, such as well known news papers or magazines. **None of the sources can be blog posts or websites.** 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.