FSTY 1311 Assignment 2: Annotated Bibliography
(Worth 15% of your grade; due on October 8)

Overview

For the third major assignment in this course, you will write a research paper that evaluates and responds to arguments in an ongoing debate about the influence that technology has on the ways we read, write, and think. In order to prepare for this assignment, you will compile an annotated bibliography of six sources. Your bibliography should contain a list of these sources, cited chronologically and correctly in MLA format, as well as a highly structured set of notes ("annotations") that help you understand each source. If done well, your annotated bibliography will be a tremendously useful resource as you write your research paper.

Assignment Details

Over the next two weeks, we will read six articles that explore topics raised in Nicholas Carr's article, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" For each of the six sources, you will create a bibliography entry using the following procedures:

Step 1: Read the article. Before you begin writing an annotation, read through the entire article (preferably more than once). As you read, highlight passages you feel are important and make marginal comments about points you disagree with or concepts you don't understand.

Step 2: Create the bibliography citation. Each entry should begin with a full citation for the source. We will use the 2009 MLA format, as described in the "MLA Papers" section of Diana Hacker's *Pocket Style Manual.*

Step 3: Draft the bibliography annotation. Each entry should summarize the main ideas of the article, but it's not enough to merely summarize. Get in the habit of reading sources for research questions, methods, claims, evidence, and rhetoric. Without a clear understanding of how and why an author reached his/her conclusions and how s/he is using rhetoric to prepare audiences to accept those conclusions, you won't be able to engage the author when you make arguments in your own writing. A strong bibliography will show mastery of the details of the conversation, not only for content ("what is said"), but also for rhetoric ("how it is said"). Each annotation should be 150–250 words, 90+% of which must be summary written in your own words.

Additional suggestions for writing effective bibliography entries include the following:

- Use precise verbs. Don't just write, "Jones says" or "Professor X states."
- Include page numbers in parenthetical citations when you quote a source (if the source has page numbers).
- Use no more than two quotations per annotation. Quotations should kept short (i.e., don't quote more than a single sentence).
- Proofread your work carefully. Your entries should follow the 2009 MLA format precisely and should appear in chronological order.

Pages 400–403 in our textbook contain excellent suggestions for evaluating sources. In addition, you may want to use the following questions as a guide when drafting your annotations:

1. What is the author's background and authority? Why should the reader trust him or her?

2. What are the author's significant claims?

3. What are the limitations of the author's arguments? Does s/he acknowledge any? Can you find any?

4. What concessions does the author make to his or her opponents?

5. What important evidence does the author use to support his/her claims?

6. What rhetorical strategies does the author use to convince the reader of his or her interpretation of evidence?

7. How does this author's argument fit in with (or work against) the arguments made by other authors in the overall "conversation"?

8. What does this article contribute to your efforts to answer your research question? In other words, so what?

Step 5. Submit the bibliography. When your document is complete, save it as "Full Name Annotated Bibliography," upload it to your Google Docs account, and share it with quinnwarnick@gmail.com. (Be sure to make me an "editor" of the document.) The final draft of your bibliography is due before class begins on Friday, October 8.

Evaluation Criteria
Your bibliography will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Completeness
- Does the bibliography contain six entries, with a full citation and annotation for each entry?
- Does each entry contain 150-250 words?

Content
- Do the annotations accurately summarize the arguments made by the authors, as well as analyze the authors' rhetorical strategies?
- Do the annotations show an understanding of how each article fits into the larger conversation on this topic?

Style
- Do the annotations use scholarly language to characterize the authors' arguments?
- Are the bibliography entries concise, clear, and engaging?

Grammatical Conventions and Mechanics
- Does the bibliography adhere to the conventions of standard written English?
- Do the entries follow 2009 MLA formatting guidelines?