## Annotated Bibliography Assignment

### **Task**

By now, you should have found at four to five potential sources that could help you answer your research question. Some of these sources may be relevant and reliable, others may be less useful or of more questionable authority. Select **three** of the sources that you think are relevant and reliable for this Annotated Bibliography.

### **Format**

Prepare bibliographic entries for each of your three sources in MLA format. Prepare an annotation to follow each bibliographic entry that both:

1. Briefly summarizes the key ideas from the source;
2. Describes how the key ideas and/or information can help you answer your chosen research question. Be specific about what information is useful in the source and how that information connects to your research question.

These annotations should be a paragraph long--somewhere between five and eight sentences. Because the first half of the annotation is a summary, it should **not** include quotations. Note that in the sample annotation below, about half of the sentences describe the source and half of the sentences indicate how the source might be used to address the research question. That is a good balance to aim for.

### **Sample**

Here is an example of an annotated bibliography entry in MLA format that addresses the following research question:

* What are some reasons economic inequality persists today in the United States?

Edsall, Thomas B. “Is Education No Longer the ‘Great Equalizer’?” *New York Times*, 23 June 2021, www.nytimes.com/2021/06/23/opinion/

education-poverty-intervention.html. Accessed 1 August 2022.

Edsall examines research on whether education can help reduce income inequalities. Some studies he reviews show that while people with a college degree are doing better and better, those with a high school degree are not, a sign that inequality is worsening. Edsall also looks at the way parenting styles, which may shape education levels, are influenced by economic pressures. His essay concludes that additional investment in childhood education, particularly education that helps children develop both cognitive abilities and non-cognitive abilities such as grit and persistence, is likely the most effective strategy. Edsall’s scope will be helpful in addressing my question about the causes of inequality because he examines a range of influences—not just education levels, but also parenting. I wondered, though, about his claim that more investment in early education will actually help. For example, one study he includes points out that achievement differences between poorer students and richer ones haven’t budged for fifty years. Even though he includes research that argues that this is because not enough has been done, I think I will still need to find out more about ways to address inequalities.