Humanities 1A Spring 2014

Literature and Arts Research Project

Part 2: Thesis and Annotated Bibliography

In this part of your project, please select **one** of the three viewpoints/positions that you formulated so far, and prepare a thesis statement. Your thesis statement is the basis of your research paper (Part 3), and will guide you in the selection of your research materials. You must list three of these outside resources (other than the course text) and annotate them for this part of your work.

Working with the positions/topics that you formulated in your first assignment, create a thesis statement based on one of the viewpoints/topics. Be sure to consider what topic might be rich enough to yield a thesis with which you can work. Remember, **a thesis statement is a declarative sentence that makes a claim that is not obvious about a topic, but which may be defended and shown to be reasonable by argument and evidence.** Once you have a thesis statement, the work of writing becomes straightforward, since your paper is the formulation of relevant arguments and evidence supporting the thesis. How do you know if a claim about a work is obvious or not? If, in the material you are working with the claim is shown to be obvious, it is not a possible thesis claim. E.g. an obvious claim could be: “The suitors were troublesome to the home and family of Odysseus.” Also, if the claim you are considering has many sources available to support it already, it is obvious.

The second part of this assignment is to report on your research. You are to seek materials as sources of information for your project, and provide a bibliography of three annotated sources you will use in writing your paper. **An annotated bibliography lists citations of sources, and summarizes each of them in a paragraph that describes the content of the particular source**. You may use books or a chapter of a book, either hard copy or e-book, or database journal articles*.* You may use more than three resources, but only three need to be annotated.

As you can see, this assignment has two parts. The first is the formulation of a thesis statement and the second is the selection and annotation of three written sources that will be relevant and useful in developing the thesis statement. Please feel free to contact me ([louann.trost@sjsu.edu](mailto:louann.trost@sjsu.edu)) and discuss any questions you might have about the assignment.

Assignment length: 1-2 pages

Date due: April 9, 2014

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