

## English 201: Research Journal Methods

Following are a few different methods for keeping track of research materials. If you have an alternate method, that's fine, but remember, your research journal needs to demonstrate your ability to read, analyze, and evaluate source materials. Remember, no matter what kind of method you are using, it is essential that you delineate when you are summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting material you are gathering from your sources. Also, be sure to clearly note when you are assessing and evaluating the source as well.

### Annotated Bibliography

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Annotations allow you the opportunity to summarize, assess, and reflect on your source information in paragraph form. Thorough, well-written annotations, especially summaries, can often be used directly when you begin work drafting your paper. *Remember to identify quotations, summaries, and paraphrases through using in-text citations (MLA form) within your annotations.* Here is a list of steps to help you prepare an annotation.

1. Include a bibliographic citation for the source using the format of your choice.
2. Provide an objective summary of the source. This summary should be brief but thorough. Be sure to highlight key assertions, arguments, and claims that the writer makes in the piece.
3. Next, evaluate the source. Think back to the kinds of evaluation and rhetorical analysis you have done in this class and in other classes. This evaluation allows you to validate your use of the source for your research.
  - What kinds of information/claims/facts does the source present?
  - Who is writing this source? Is s/he a credible? How so?
  - Which audience does the writer address in the article?
  - What are the strengths of the source?
  - What are the weaknesses and limitations of the source?
4. Lastly, explain how you plan to use the source in your paper.
  - Which of your claims does this source support?
  - What reasonable differences or counterarguments does this source bring up?

### Research Status Report

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Another method of keeping track of the same kind of information you provide in an annotated bibliography is through using a research status report. A sample research status report is attached to this handout. Your research status reports should be word processed. Your report should be as detailed as you can make it so, once again, you can use as much information from the report as you can in your final project. (Report questions follow.)

### Double Entry Journal

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The editors of *Fieldworking* explain what a double entry journal is on pages 93-94. Double entry notes allow you to record your notes from whatever material you are working with and at the same time allow you to assess and evaluate those notes as they apply to your specific research. You can set the journal up as you like – I suggest putting it together on your computer so you already have important information typed and available for use when you start drafting your paper. In your double entry journal, be sure to include a complete citation. Record page numbers as well. *Important: make sure you delineate when you are quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing material that you draw from the source!* Following is a sample double journal. There is also an example in *Fieldworking*. (Sample follows.)

<p>74</p> <p>75</p> <p>76</p> <p>84</p> <p>87</p> <p>92</p>	<p><i>Black Literature and Literary Theory</i> (1984)  <i>"Race," Writing, and Difference</i> (1986)  <i>Blues, Ideology, and Afro-American Literature: A Vernacular Theory</i> (1984)          "The Black Canon: Reconstructing Black American Literary Criticism" in <i>New Literary History</i> (1987)</p> <p>Fuss sites prominent texts for work on race theory          Fanon "The Fact of Blackness" in <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>          – Fuss paraphrases Fanon: "Fanon addresses the biological signification of race in a culture where it is always the Other who is designated as ethnic, always the Other who assumes the badge and the burden of 'race.' It is not merely to be a 'Negro' . . . it is, rather, to <i>be</i> the biological." Fuss continues: "For Fanon, the body image of the black subject is not constituted by biological determinations from within but rather by cultural overdeterminations from without: 'not only must the black man be black,' Fanon writes, 'he must be black in relation to the white man.'"</p> <p>Anthony Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument: Du Bois and the Illusion of Race."</p> <p>Discussion of Gates and signifying          Fuss paraphrasing Gates: "Signifying as an Afro-American rhetorical practice, is, above all, 'the slave's trope, the trope of tropes,' which allows the speaker to argue indirectly (through innuendo, humor, or riddles) and, sometimes, to undermine and to unbalance a master discourse."</p> <p>Houston Baker about the blues: "even as they [the blues] speak of paralyzing absence and ineradicable desire their instrumental rhythms suggest change, continuance, unlimited and unending possibility. Like signification itself, blues are always nomadically wandering. Like the freight-hopping hobo, they are ever on the move, ceaselessly summing novel experience."</p> <p>Gayatri Spivak uses the term "chromatism" to signify the delineation of race by skin color.</p> <p>Fuss: "But to see 'Blackness' as an ethnic marker (equivalent to Germanness or Jewishness) has historically worked to homogenize black identity, to de-particularize the black subject: 'ethnicity theory' isn't very interested in ethnicity <i>among</i> blacks. The ethnicity approach views blacks as one ethnic group among others. It does not consider national origin, religion, language, or cultural differences among blacks as it does among whites as a source of ethnicity." (Omi and Winant 1986, 23)</p> <p>Hazel V. Carby, <i>Reconstructing Womanhood: The Emergence of the Afro-American Woman Novelist</i> (1987)</p>	<p>OR, he must be black in relation to the black man. How does Morrison transpose Fanon's idea here?</p> <p>Could Morrison possibly be signifying on the white community through her discussion of Ruby, i.e. poking sarcastic fun at the resident's move to make their community exceptional? Does Morrison undermine the master's discourse as she critiques Ruby?</p> <p>THIS COULD BE HELPFUL INSIGHT IN THE JAZZ PAPER, especially as Baker references the possibility available through the blues</p> <p>See: "Imperialism and Sexual Difference." <i>Oxford Literary Review</i> 8:1-2, 225-240.</p> <p>See this discussion in Omi and Winant</p> <p>Is this issue of ethnic difference amongst African Americans the issue that Morrison proposes in Paradise? As Pat records the history of Ruby, she is documenting the different traditions that that the Haven and Ruby 8-Rs share. It is difficult to break those traditions especially when Outsiders views all of the traditions practiced by the black community as the same.</p>
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## Research Status Report

Using the MLA style as explained in our textbook, give the full reference to the book or article reported on:

Summarize the main argument of the article or book:

Paraphrase the single most important point of the article/book: (Please include the original passage on the back of this sheet)

How might the article be significant to your research?

How has the article enriched your understanding of your topic?

What is the strongest question the article encourages you to ask about your topic?

What item in the bibliography or works cited page of the article seems most interesting? Does our library have the item?

Additional comments: (fill the available space)