

## 2020 Summer Project Capstone Seminar Murphy

### Assignment

Please read the attached book chapter and use it to complete the following activities. Come to school in the fall prepared to share 1.) your research topic statement, 2.) your problem statement, and 3.) an annotated bibliography of 20 peer-reviewed sources related to your problem. 1 and 2 are clearly defined in the enclosed Merriam book chapter. We will reflect on these three products in writing and in discussion at the beginning of the coming academic year. Our discussions will shape the direction(s) your research will take.

- 1.) Prepare your topic statement & problem statement
  - Read: Selecting a topic (Merriam, pp. 55-58)
  - Read: The research problem (Merriam, pp. 58-64)
  - Complete: Exhibit 4.3 (Merriam, p. 65)
  
- 2.) Annotated bibliography
  - Read: Reviewing the literature (Merriam, pp. 71-76)
  - Use EBSCOhost to find and download 20 peer-reviewed sources
  - Annotations should include at least:
    - i. Complete APA citation
    - ii. Indicative annotation (3-5 sentences; instructions at UW-M site)
    - iii. Informative annotation (3-5 sentences; instructions at UW-M site)
    - iv. University of Wisconsin – Madison :: [Annotated Bibliographies](#)

### Purpose & Goals

The purpose of this assignment is to help you *reflect* on your interests. We can only plan out a worthwhile project after you have reflected deeply and methodically about your topic.

It is important that we remain on the same page regarding what I mean by “reflect.” I lean on John Dewey’s definition of reflection (a scholar widely considered the ‘father of education’ since nearly all of your teachers were made to read his work by their mean but well-intentioned college professors). Dewey suggests

[reflection is the] ... active, persistent, and careful consideration of any belief or supposed form of knowledge in light of the grounds that support it and the further conclusions to which it tends (Dewey, 1933, p. 9).

Dewey’s definition, in this excerpt, has three parts – each of which tells you what I’d like you to do *with* your work this summer. First, reflection is active. This means you are to use your responses to Exhibit 4.3 to examine real-world problems you would like to contribute towards alleviating. This endeavor is about honesty with yourself. What real-world problems truly surprise, perplex and/or disturb you? Second, reflection is persistent. You are encouraged to begin completing Exhibit 4.3, put the Merriam chapter down for a while, and then come back to it days later when you’re bored or trying to ignore a sibling.

Lastly, reflection is careful thought. This means that you should look beyond the titles of articles, and between the lines of what you read for your bibliography. Look for the subtle (and not so subtle) assumptions researchers make about your problem. What aspect(s) of your problem are they all missing?