Professor Elisabet Head

ESCI 211 – Physical Geology

DUE: February 4 (Wednesday) by 10pm via D2L

You will use several online resources this semester, which will help guide and improve your writing skills. One of these is the Online Writing Lab (OWL) created by Purdue University. The website includes many great writing tips, so explore!

Since the first steps in producing your paper are finding, evaluating, and synthesizing publications, we are going to start with an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a good way to organize your resources and information. Read the information below and then visit the website to get more specific information.

Modified from the OWL web site:

An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources (publications) you find for your paper. Your annotated bibliographies will:

- **Summarize**: What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?

For more help, see our handout on **paraphrasing** sources.  

- **Assess**: After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?

For more help, see our handouts on **evaluating resources**.

- **Reflect**: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

**Very important step: synthesis! How does each publication relate to the others and add to the point of your paper?**

**OWL web address for Annotated Bibliography**: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/

**OWL main web address**: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/