

Structuring Online Assignments

Because students in remotely delivered courses have fewer opportunities to spontaneously ask questions, robust assignment directions, including context and help resources, are essential to a positive learning experience.

Contextualize the assignment in the goals of the course or the larger project. Why is this assignment important?

Delineate the steps needed to complete the assignment. Be specific and—as appropriate—clear about the structure of the document students should submit.

Advise students about what resources—inside and outside the course—they should consult. And provide guidance about how to complete the assignment effectively and efficiently.

Clarify the grading criteria for the assignment, reiterating key points from the rubric.

As innovative as your approach to your chosen case may be, it is likely that researchers have tested similar interventions, or tested different interventions that are relevant to the underlying problem you are trying to address. To avoid reinventing the wheel—or repeating the mistakes of the past—having a sense of what has already been tried is an important first step in developing your case.

For this assignment, you will gain that context by constructing an **annotated bibliography of at least 8 scholarly or grey literature sources** that are relevant to your [chosen case](#). For each article, create an entry that includes:

- A bibliographic reference in a recognized format ([AMA](#) ^{et}, [APA](#) ^{et}, etc.).
- A link to the article online.
- A 1–2 paragraph annotation that includes:
 - A precis of the article.
 - Why the article is relevant for your chosen case.

Once you have completed your annotated bibliography entries, **write an overall summary of 1–2 paragraphs** that outlines the trends you have noticed in the literature:

- In general, how have previous interventions approached the problem you face in your case?
- Have previous approaches been successful?
- Is there work on which your intervention might build?
- Have previous interventions fallen into traps you would want to avoid?

Getting Started

Start by reviewing the **downloadable handout on constructing an annotated bibliography**, as well as [Penn Libraries' overview of grey literature](#) ^{et}, and consider the following tips:

- **Expect to find more articles than you actually include.** Not every article will be equally relevant, and you want sources that will actually be useful for you as you plan your intervention.
- **Start with the references at hand.** The bibliographies provided each week in Behavioral Economics and Decision Making include scholarship that is relevant to both cases in the lab.
- **Do your own searching.** Use bibliographies in Behavioral Economics and Decision Making to identify important authors and keywords, and then use them to search the library's databases. Many authors have work that may be more recent, and more relevant to your interests for this assignment.
- **Read the abstracts.** Most scholarly articles in health care include abstracts and key findings, and those sections can help you decide if they are relevant to your needs. If they look promising, read through the introduction, discussion, and conclusions to get a better sense of what the researcher found.

Grading and Feedback

Your grade this assignment will be based mainly on:

- The relevance of the articles to your chosen case.
- The specificity with which your annotations reflect what each article is about and why it is relevant.
- The degree to which your overall summary conveys a sense of trends in the literature, and its strengths and gaps.

Add in-line help to clarify assignment directions where appropriate

Specify the quantity of work or amount of time you expect from students at each step.

Downloadable handouts can help students grasp key skills they will need to complete the assignment.

In addition to a Grading and Feedback section, use [Canvas rubrics](#) to streamline grading and create transparency for students.