

History 102: History of the United States Since 1865
Term Paper Preparation Assignment #2 - Modified Annotated Bibliography
Due Monday, May 23rd

Introduction

For your second term paper preparation assignment, you will be examining the primary source documents in Argersinger's *The Triangle Fire*, some documents from the Cornell University website on the Triangle fire, and creating an annotated bibliography.

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources that you examine while researching a topic, with a description of the source and how it might be used in the paper. For this paper, your sources are the documents in Argersinger and the Cornell University website on the Triangle Fire. The instructions that follow will guide you through the process of choosing, reading and creating an annotated bibliography for your term paper.

Assignment Instructions:

- A. Choose **two** documents from each of the four sections in Part II of *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents* listed below (these are the subheadings in the book's Table of Contents) and **two** documents from the Cornell website (**for a total of 10 documents**) and read them.

Triangle Fire Sections (remember, choose two documents from each section)

- i. The Garment Industry and Its Workers,
- ii. Triangle and the "Uprising of Twenty Thousand",
- iii. The Triangle Tragedy: Grief and Outrage, and,
- iv. "The Fire that Lit the Nation")

Please note: In *The Triangle Fire* book each document is a separate chapter. At the beginning of each document is an italicized introduction. THIS IS NOT THE DOCUMENT and is not what you summarize. You are to read the actual document written at the time of the event.

Also note: I will go over the Cornell website with you in class to show you where to find appropriate documents.

- B. Once you have read your documents, on a separate sheet for each document (yes this means 10 pages, or 5 if you print two-sided), provide the following information:

1. Bibliographic Entry

Bibliographic entry for this document, using the format provided in the Citation Guidelines (found on website). You will be using a form of University of Chicago Manual of Style, which is the stylebook used by historians. You are NOT using MLA or APA.

2. Summary

Summarize the argument and/or main points of the author. In other words, what is the author telling you about this subject? **This should be in your own words**....don't just rewrite/change around some of the author's words.

3. Quotation

Provide a quote that you think most powerfully addresses the author's main point. Use the proper format for citing the quotation as provided in the Term Paper Assignment and Instructions.

Explain why you chose this quotation.

4. Use in Paper

Explain, in three to four sentences, **how** this document might be used as evidence in your paper, including **where** in the outline (see full paper assignment) it would be located.

Formatting Guidelines for Assignment

- At the top of the first sheet only, in the upper right hand corner, put your name, date, and class single spaced.
- Staple in upper left hand corner.
- Each document should be on a separate page.
- SEE NEXT PAGE FOR A SAMPLE ENTRY TO SHOW YOU WHAT I WANT IN EACH SECTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

Sample Entry:

1. *Bibliographic Entry*

McFarlane, Arthur E. *Fire in the Skyscraper: The Problem of Protecting Workers in New York's Tower Factories* in Joann E. Argersinger, *The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents*. 2009. New York: Bedford, St. Martins Press.

2. *Summary*

This document is an excerpt from Arthur McFarlane's article on The Triangle fire. In this discussion he describes the 'modern' style of factory in New York and the safety limitations of these loft buildings that weren't designed to even be a factory. He then goes on to detail the reasons owners chose these buildings. For example, he explains that lofts, because they had high ceilings, met the state's factory laws that said a factory worker had to have 250 cubic feet of air around them. With such high ceilings, lots of workers could be put side by side and still meet this standard. He also discusses something the fire revealed: that these new factories were so tall that fire department ladders couldn't reach the top. Finally, he discusses a variety of safety hazards in the lofts including a lack of fire escapes, trash, and narrow passageways that ultimately led to the deaths of workers.

3. *Quotation*

The quote that I chose from this document is:

"In the Asch Building....it was estimated by the Fire Commissioner that the occupants of the three upper floors could not have gone down by the fire-escape in less than three hours" (McFarlane, 41).

I chose this quote because it is a pretty dramatic demonstration of the huge lack of safety precautions in New York factories. The fire was so fast moving that the people on the ninth floor were dead within 20 minutes, not three hours.

4. *Use in Paper*

I will likely use this document in my paper in the Body, Part A where I discuss working and safety conditions that workers faced in America's factories at this time. I could also use it in the next section, on the role of government. McFarlane's discussion of the lack of safety in the factories and the lax oversight of the factories indicates pretty clearly that the government wasn't interested in protecting the health and safety of workers prior to the fire.