Unit 6 Assignment Example: Annotated Bibliography

Steve Smith

Kaplan University

*Please note that this is a* ***sample*** *Unit 6 Assignment to help inspire and guide your own original writing of the Assignment. Be sure to review the Assignment instructions and grading rubric, complete each task in the instructions, and contact the instructor with any questions.*

Annotated Bibliography

THESIS STATEMENT: To improve academic performance and help SAISD students compete with peers in higher-rated districts when applying to college, the school district should provide every high school student with an electronic tablet; this will encourage more learning outside of the classroom and increase mastery of skills.

Castro, J. (2012, September 4*). Julian Castro DNC speech* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jx3m7jk1CY>.

Julian Castro, San Antonio’s former mayor and current Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President Obama’s Cabinet, made a keynote address at the 2012 Democratic Convention in Charlotte, NC. He emphasized the importance of education in his own journey; he and his brother grew up with their mother and grandmother, an immigrant to the U.S. who had only a fourth-grade education. America, he notes, is a place of opportunity, but we have to provide the resources for achieving the American dream, and education is the foundation for this upward mobility. He talks about some initiatives in San Antonio, like Pre-K for SA and Café College (Castro, 2012). Therefore, I think that this speech will help me to support the claim that this city is looking to find ways to give students, especially those in low-income areas, more educational opportunities. I find this source credible given Castro’s efforts to improve educational opportunities, particularly for poor and minority constituents, during his tenure as San Antonio’s mayor.

Catalano, F. (2013, October 9). Tech happens: When tablets and schools don’t mix. *GeekWire.* Retrieved from http://www.geekwire.com/2013/tech-tablets-schools-mix/.

Catalano’s *GeekWire* column raises a number of challenges that I will need to consider as I develop my proposal to issue tablets to all students in the San Antonio Independent School District. He discusses a couple of high-profile failures of such initiatives in Los Angeles and North Carolina, one caused by students “hacking” into their tablets and accessing non-approved sites and the other caused by hardware malfunctions. He also makes a truly important point about the need to implement technology thoughtfully; schools cannot just throw devices at students and expect better academic performance (Catalano, 2013). I find this source credible because *GeekWire* is a respected source of technology information, Catalano is a regular contributor, and he has worked in the EdTech industry. The source will be valuable because it poses specific challenges I will need to address in my essay. The district must decide what tablets to use, what students can (and cannot) access on them, and how they will be integrated into courses. Otherwise, the district is just spending a lot of money to look like it is leaving no student behind in our tech-oriented society.

Kidd, T. T. & Chen, I. (Eds.). (2011*). Ubiquitous learning: Strategies for pedagogy, course design, and technology*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.

This collection of essays edited by two college professors was published in 2011 by Information Age Publishing, which seems like an appropriate publishing firm for a book that focuses on technology’s uses for education. This is an academic and scholarly publishing company according to their website, which also notes their focus on “innovation in publishing research in education, management, & psychology” (Information Age Publishing, n.d.). The book includes 17 chapters about various ways that educators can use technology, some of which would be more helpful to my project than others. A lot of the chapters use the term “ubiquitous learning,” which the preface describes as learning that happens anywhere and all the time thanks to our access to technology (Kidd & Chen, 2011). The editors believe that technology offers educators many ways to engage students and provide new opportunities for learning, and the contributors base their arguments on pedagogical theories like constructivism, which I learned about in my education course last term. I believe the book will have helpful information for my project, although it may be more oriented towards higher education and online learning as opposed to technology-supplemented secondary education.

Weber, P.J. (2014, January 4). Texas library offers glimpse of bookless future. *USA Today.* Retrieved from http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/01/04/san-antonio-bookless-public-library/4310655/.

Weber’s article about the first all-digital library in San Antonio, TX, describes the benefits of using technology to broaden access to books and increase literacy. The piece describes how the library works, the cost benefits of the all-digital library compared to a traditional one, and the positive response of patrons (Weber, 2014). The article is credible because it is in a nationally published newspaper, and the author interviewed not only people who work in the library but librarians in other parts of the country who are interested in imitating this model. This will be helpful for my final project because it is about the success of a San Antonio technology initiative and notes that the library has had no problems with the patrons (including many local high school students) returning the iPads. I am guessing that fears of theft and damage would be a considerable challenge to my argument, and evidence from this article could help to allay those fears.

References

Castro, J. (2012, September 4*). Julian Castro DNC speech* [Video file]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jx3m7jk1CY.

Catalano, F. (2013, October 9). Tech happens: When tablets and schools don’t mix. *GeekWire.* Retrieved from http://www.geekwire.com/2013/tech-tablets-schools-mix/.

Kidd, T. T. & Chen, I. (Eds.). (2011*). Ubiquitous learning: Strategies for pedagogy, course design, and technology*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.

Weber, P.J. (2014, January 4). Texas library offers glimpse of bookless future. *USA Today.* Retrieved from http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2014/01/04/san-antonio-bookless-public-library/4310655/.