

Engaging Sources: Tracking Your Research & Thinking

This handout presents three common methods for collecting both your research and your thinking about it: **Annotated Bibliography**, **Reading Journal**, and **Note Cards**. All three are described in detail in our Research Paper Video Tutorial. These are just a few ideas; you can pick the one that seems most useful, combine different strategies, or adapt them in new ways. What matters is finding a system that works for you.

Whatever method you choose for engaging sources, be careful, thorough, and responsive. The note-taking and writing that happens here often contains the ideas that fuel a research paper and lead to your ultimate thesis statement.

Annotated Bibliography

Climate Change Art Activism
Annotated Bibliography
January 2013

Harrison Studio, The. WordPress. Web. 12 Jan. 2013.

This website provides background information on the artists and their work as well as extensive records of their projects and publications. The Harrisons collaborate with experts in scientific fields that can help their projects. They also work with diplomats and representatives to allow for their projects and encourage action on their proposed solutions. These projects typically provide an image of the future under the effects of climate change. In Peninsula Europe Part II The Rising of Waters The Warming of Lands, 2007, the Harrisons created a research-based map of future Europe. The accompanying text suggests that drought, floods, and monocultural farming will endanger twenty to thirty percent of the continent's farmland. This is a good example of the Harrisons' method of visualizing the threat, thereby placing facts in a more accessible and comprehensive narrative.

Ingram Allen, Jane. "How Big is Here: A Conversation with Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison." *Sculpture* 26.10 (2007): 49-53. Art & Architecture Complete. Web. 9 Jan. 2013.

This article is an interview with the artists in which Ingram Allen probes for the couple's inspiration, methods, and reflection. It gets really interesting when they start talking about why they do this work and what the outcomes are. They talk about success being growth, a new state of mind, but limiting its measure to themselves. They admit that it's impossible to know whether or not they have "succeeded" in changing others' minds, especially in the long run. Helen Mayer Harrison notes, "We're most interested in bringing forth a new state of mind, first in ourselves, then hope-fully in others," to which Newton Harrison adds, "we can never really tell when and how we may have succeeded. In fact, we may not even know what success is" (52). In making this shift, the Harrisons admit that their art may only impact the right people for long enough to inspire environmentally significant actions without actually impacting the values and perspectives of the population—including those citizens taking action.

Reference info
in the chosen or
required citation
style format (and
alphabetized)

Overall summary

Important details

Relevance: connection
to my interests or
research question

Reference info
in the chosen or
required citation
style format

Source: Ingram Allen, Jane. "How Big is Here: A Conversation with Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison." *Sculpture* 26.10 (2007): 49-53. Art & Architecture Complete. Web. 9 Jan. 2013.

- interview with the artists
- their inspiration, methods, reflection

- gets really interesting when they start to talk about why they do this work and what the outcomes are

HMH: "We're most interested in bringing forth a new state of mind, first in ourselves, then hopefully in others," (52).

- success = growth, a new state of mind, limited to themselves
- "first in ourselves" = thing that happens
- "hopefully in others" = thing that could happen
- inherent in art? in activism? or bc it's more direct, purposeful, single-minded, it's the only possible outcome?

NH: "we can never really tell when and how we may have succeeded. In fact, we may not even know what success is" (52).

- impossible to know whether or not they have "succeeded" in changing others' minds, especially in the long run
- may only impact the right people and only long enough to inspire actions. So does this art really impact their values and perspectives? But can any one thing "permanently" change someone's opinion? More incremental, constantly reassessed with new input.

Information, ideas, and direct quotes from the text/resource itself

My responses: analysis, connections to my topic and to other resources, new questions and directions

Note Cards

Source Cards

Give each source a number (in the order you discover them)

4

Lippard, Lucy R. Introduction. "Weather Report: Expecting the Unexpected," *Weather Report: Art and Climate Change*. Ed. Lucy Lippard. Boulder: Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, 2007. 4-11. Print.

Reference info in the chosen or required citation style format

Information Cards

Source number matching appropriate Source Card

4

Quick Topic Cue

Art as Activism

IVB

Reference a specific place in an outline (optional step, which would come later in the process)

Q/P/S: Quoted, paraphrased, or summarized piece of interesting or relevant information from the text (cited in chosen or required format)

Q: "There is no reason to exaggerate the elusive power of art. Artists... help open our eyes to what we must do to resist and survive" (Lippard 6).

Commentary: one or two complete, specific sentences explaining how this information or idea contributes to your research question

C: Lippard points to the opportunities and limitations, admitting that we can't expect action or a shift of values as an immediate result.