

# YOUTH POLICY PROJECT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## Step 1. Pick an issue to study in more depth

1. **You may want to narrow the topic.**
  - o For example, if you are interested in juvenile justice, you will have to pick a smaller topic, such as children tried as adults, diversion programs, or restorative justice programs.
  - o If you are interested in health issues, it will be easier if you narrow your topic to a particular area of policy (obesity, diabetes, reproductive health, or mental health).

## Step 2. Collect two types of useful sources

1. **Definitions, data, and background information on your topic (that you didn't include in your fact sheet).**
  - o For example, if you are studying afterschool issues, how many youth spend time alone after school? What are the main reasons?
  - o If you are studying homelessness, how many youth are homeless, how do we define "homelessness," and why are they homeless?
  - o If you are studying health issues, what are the rates of obesity and other health conditions in youth, and are these preventable?
2. **Current policies that address this issue?**
  - o For example, if you are studying abuse and neglect, what are we currently doing and in what ways do they fail youth?
  - o If you are studying bullying, what policies address this issue?
  - o If you are studying juvenile justice issues, how do we currently handle youth in the criminal justice system?

## Step 3. Create an annotated bibliography.

1. **Begin with a short paragraph describing your topic and target population.**
2. **Provide a list of books, articles, and other documents that will inform your policy proposal.** The purpose is to keep track of the content and quality of each source.
  - (a) Begin with a full APA reference, including the URL if appropriate.
  - (b) Briefly describe and evaluate the source (~150 words).
    - o State how it will be relevant and useful for your policy proposal (see below).
    - o Be as specific as you can; this will help you prepare for writing the policy brief.

Sources should include at least two scholarly sources and a total of 8 sources including web and policy analysis papers, but if you have more, that's fine. Approx. 4 to 6 pages. A draft of this annotated bibliography may be submitted electronically (please -- at least 3 days before the due date) for comments and suggestions.

### A preview of the policy brief (Part C).

The list below includes information that will be part of your policy brief. These questions may help in your choice of selections for the annotated bibliography:

- What is the context (historical and contemporary) of your issue?
- Define the problem: What are the current "gaps" in policy?
- What is your proposal for policy change (it should begin to address the problem and fill in the "gaps")?
  - o What are your policy's goals?
  - o Who would be covered by the policy?
  - o Which level of government and which agencies will be responsible for implementation of the policy?
  - o How much would your proposal cost and how would it be funded?
  - o What do you want the public, public officials, and others to do?