**IME Chapter 2 Worksheet 4 Describing Source Content**

Relates to **Describing Source Content**, p. 48

**Objectives**

* Develop a systematic method for reading and synthesizing journal articles
* Practice writing an annotated bibliography entry
* Place entry into larger system for organizing research

**Background**

Once you have moved beyond overview sources to look at peer-reviewed research, you need to develop a method for synthesizing and evaluating your findings for use in your own research projects. In this activity, you will go through the process of *closely* reading and annotating an original research article related to your area of concern. The goal is for you to incorporate the information generated in this assignment into a larger organization system for your research project. Some common forms of research management include notetaking software (e.g., Evernote, OneNote), or keeping a running word document or detailed spreadsheet.

**Selecting a Research Article**

Locate an original research study from a *peer-reviewed source* that is related to your topic. If you completed Chapter 2 Worksheet 3 “Framing A Research Idea” you may be able to re-use a source you identified in the “Primary Evaluation” section.

**Annotating a Research Article**

While *annotation* refers to the notes and ideas you may jot in the margins while reading, this term also refers to notes you take to summarize and evaluate a source (think “Annotated Bibliography”).

**Describing Source Content: Generating an Annotation**

The prompts below are intended to help you synthesize your findings. You may respond with bulleted ideas or prose but challenge yourself to condense your thoughts to a maximum of 3 sentences per question). This will help later when you review your collected sources.

**Type out the full APA reference and at least 3 keywords for each item below:**

**Restate the research question in your own words:** What was the researcher trying to learn or explain?

**Briefly discuss the *research method,* including research design, participants, and data sources:** How did the author(s) seek to answer their question?

**Summary of the *Results*:** What did they find?

**Summary of the *Discussion:*** How does this extend or challenge what was already known about this topic?

**Critical reflections :** How well did the authors address the purpose(es) of their study? Was anything especially well done? Or, on the other hand, what might have been done differently (and why)? Did the researcher come to conclusions or make assumptions that you do not agree with?

**The “So what?”:** Why is this research important? How is it valuable? What does it mean to you considering your topic?

**Include a screenshot of your “entry” for this source within your research organization system**