Anthropic Principle Prep Work

Assignment Due Tuesday, April 14th OR at the time of your individual conference with me if that comes first. You need a copy at your conference and one in class on Tuesday.

Write a one-page (at least) proposal of your final essay. Your proposal should cover the following:

- What will be your main argument and your thesis statement?
- How will you explain what the anthropic principle is?
- How will each source give you the evidence you need to make an argument?

A proposal may sound similar to an outline, but this is a step that should come before an outline. At this stage, you’re not trying to frame out an entire essay, organizationally, from beginning to end – that’s what an outline does. Instead, you are trying to think carefully about your topic and how you would produce an argument, in order to assess whether your topic is juicy enough to fill the space allotted and whether it is well-supported by the sources you’ve been able to find. In other words, you want to write down what you want to write about in a formal way. You’re making sure that this is an essay that you would be able to outline, and that it forms one cohesive idea that is arguable from the evidence you’ve obtained. Bring a copy with you to class to discuss with peers, but also bring a copy with you to your individual conference with me.

You will also be writing an annotated bibliography of the sources that you will use to construct your final essay. In class, I handed out a list of the sources the class compiled. Make a list of at least three sources (with proper bibliographic information) that agree with your essay’s argument and at least one more source that disagrees. These will be the sources you use in your final argumentative essay. At least one of the sources needs to be from a scholarly journal. None of them need to be from the sources you originally picked to share with the class; you can also use the class readings, other than the Wikipedia article. Bring a printout of each to class on Tuesday. The annotated bibliography should include the full bibliographic information for the article, and a few sentences summarizing it. However, since this is preparation for you, you may make it as long as you want, and can include quotations or anything else that will be useful for you when you put together your final essay.