

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation.

What is the purpose(s) of the annotated bibliography?

- demonstrate the quality of your own research (to help you understand what you've researched);
- provide additional information or background material for your reader (what kind of background info. do I need to know and how does it tie into what you're saying?);
- explore the topic for further reading or preparation for research (can help you organize the main points of the research and pinpoint what you want to say);
- give your research historical perspective or relevance (this issue has been viewed a number of different ways over the years).

How to begin:

First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

Cite the book, article, or document using MLA style citation. (See example below)

For your Annotated Bibliography:

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include three or more sentences that:

- Summarizes the source. What is this source saying? What information does it provide? Is it in favor of any one stance on your issue?
- Assesses the validity and credibility of your source. Who created the source originally? Are they a valid source that you should be taking information from? Does their name have weight in the realm that you are studying?
- Reflects on the relevance of your source. How does the source relate to your argument? Was it a good source? Did it provide unbiased information? Was it for or against your stance

Requirements:

You will be required to locate at least four sources on your topic. At least one of these must be a book source. You need to have at least two sources agreeing with your topic stance and two disagreeing. Each of your sources **MUST** be annotated including all of the above-mentioned qualifications (summary, assessment, reflection). The final draft of your annotated bibliography must be typed. Each annotation should be at least four sentences.