

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

An **annotated bibliography** is a brief summary and evaluation of sources. It informs the reader of the location, accuracy, quality, and relevance of sources.

The purposes of compiling an annotated bibliography are to enable the writer to:

- learn about the topic.
- focus more critically on secondary sources.
- refine the thesis.
- guide other researchers.

There are **five parts** to the annotated bibliography. These parts may be changed or modified according to the topic and teacher's preferences, but for this assignment, I would like you to follow them as they appear here.

1. Bibliography

- Write the bibliographic citation of the source according to MLA guidelines.
- Do not annotate primary source(s); only annotate secondary sources.

2. Summary

- Provide a brief yet thorough summary of the main points, particularly those relating to your topic.

3. Assessment

- State why this source is reliable. Consider the following to form your answer:
 1. Is the author a recognized expert?
 2. Is the author unbiased?
 3. Does it appear in a credible source?
 4. Is it in a reputable collection of criticisms, such as Contemporary Literary Criticism or Opposing Viewpoints?
 5. Is it found in the reference section of the school or public library?
 6. Has it been recommended by the teacher?
 7. Is the source current or out-of-date for your topic?
 8. Is the information well-documented or referenced?

4. Reflection

- How does the book or article fit into this research?
- Was the source helpful to you? Does the source relate to your topic?
- How and where can you use the source in your research project?

5. Quotes

- Type the quotes as they appear in your text.

You will need to annotate **three sources**. You may find through your reading that the information in one or two of the sources will not be helpful for your paper. Include them in your annotated bibliography anyway. The act of reading and assessing the articles will help you with this assignment and with other research in the future.

Sample Graphic Organizer of an Annotated Bibliography

Source	Ciccarelli, Sheryl, and Marie Rose Napierkowski, eds. " <u>A Tale of Two Cities.</u> " <u>Novels for Students</u> . Vol. 15. Detroit: Gale, 1999.
Summary	The book contains different discussions of various novels. The section on <u>A Tale of Two Cities</u> focuses on historical background, themes, characters, and settings. At the end of each section, various critics discuss the novel. (6 sentences. Make sure this is not copied directly. It should be a summary in your own words.)
Assessment / (Why is it credible?)	The book is published by Gale Research Group, a company with a reputation for using professors and academic writers. The collection of books is also credible because my teacher recommended it, and it is found in the reference section of the school library. (At least one good sentence.)
Reflection (How will you use it?)	I will use the explanations and examples of the themes of <u>death</u> and <u>resurrection</u> in my research paper; however, I will support this information by using quotes from my primary source. I also found one critic at the end of the section who gave good information for my introductory paragraph. (When you do this for your real annotated bib. This section must be at least three sentences long.)
Quotes	1.) Type the entire quote with the page number here. 2.) Type the entire 2nd quote with the page number here. 3.) Type the entire 3rd quote with the page number here. 4.) Type the entire 4th quote with the page number here.

Basic MLA Style Format for an Annotated Bibliography: Format your citations in the same manner as for a normal reference list, then follow these instructions for adding an annotation.

1. Hanging indents are required for citations in the bibliography, as shown below. That is, the first line of the citation starts at the left margin. Subsequent lines are indented 4 spaces.
2. As with every other part of an MLA formatted essay, the bibliography is double spaced, both within the citation and between them. Do not add an extra line between the citations.
3. The annotation is a continuation of the citation. Do not drop down to the next line to start the annotation.
4. The right margin is the normal right margin of your document.
5. In a long bibliography, organize your entries by topic, such as "Jordan Baker Materials".
6. See my example on mrshaughaboo.com