

Annotated Bibliography

What is an annotated bibliography? Essentially, an annotated bibliography is an organized way of taking notes.

[Dictionary.com](#) defines annotation as:

1. The act or process of furnishing critical commentary or explanatory notes.
2. A critical or explanatory note; a commentary and defines "bibliography" as:
 1. A list of the works of a specific author or publisher.
 2. A list of writings relating to a given subject: a bibliography of Latin American history.
 3. A list of writings used or considered by an author in preparing a particular work.

Thus, an "annotated bibliography" is a compilation of sources related to a given subject which includes critical or explanatory information.

Annotated bibliographies have many uses...First, they provide a compilation of sources with intelligent commentary; meaning, that not only do you have a summary of the content of an article, but you also have some comment as to why the article is (or is not) of use. Second, ABs provide a quick reference for useful definitions and key ideas (if you've done your job). Finally, ABs help to provide you an overview of the field so that you are not repeating work that's already been done, but can make a genuine contribution (or at least get a better grade on your current project).

Your Assignment: You will prepare an annotated bibliography for your exhibition project -- the AB will be the foundation of your research. You will need a minimum of 8 scholarly sources for this assignment (you may use more, but you only need 8 to fulfill the assignment requirements).

How do you write an annotated bibliography?

So glad you asked! The four components of an annotated bibliographic entry are as follows:

1. An MLA style reference
2. A short paragraph of 3 or 4 sentences indicating:
 - The question or problem addressed by the article (the "topic");
 - The article's thesis, conclusions, and/or recommendations.
3. Your assessment of the article's usefulness to your research goals
 - for example, maybe you need only the bibliography or a specific discussion of a particular theory
4. Any useful definitions or key ideas, in quotes, with PAGE NUMBER specified!

Example:

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995. Print.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.