



Annotated Bibliography Sample

Overview

Below you will find sample annotations from annotated bibliographies, each with a different research project. Remember that the annotations you include in your own bibliography should reflect your research project and/or the guidelines of your assignment. **Annotations will summarize the main points and examples; evaluate biases; and assess the article's usefulness and relevance for its audience.** Consider the purpose of your annotated bibliography and/or your instructor's directions when deciding how much information to include in your annotations.

ALL of your text, including the write-up beneath the citation, **must be indented** so that the author's last name (or first word of the title if there is no author) is the only text that is flush left. See the example below.

Sample MLA Annotation

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. Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach. Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in part one address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own

drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.

NOTE: In the sample annotation above, the writer includes three sections: a summary, an evaluation of the text, and a reflection on its applicability to his/her own research.

For information on formatting MLA citations, see the OWL's [MLA 2009 Formatting and Style Guide](#).