

Annotated Bibliography

Objective:

To evaluate sources for quality, usefulness, and credibility while practicing research skills and providing an opportunity to synthesize information from multiple sources.

Genre:

One genre common to many disciplines across the university is the annotated bibliography. In an annotated bibliography, a writer compiles a list of relevant sources on a topic, providing a summary and evaluation of each one. This helps fellow researchers begin work on a topic they may be unfamiliar with, or add new resources to work they've already begun.

Instructions:

1. Before beginning your research, choose a topic, write a research question, and brainstorm a list of keywords related to your topic. These can be used to search for relevant sources in databases and on the web. We'll do an activity to help you with this.

1. Conduct research using scholarly sources (e.g. academic journals, books, reputable websites). . Use a variety of sources to provide a well-rounded perspective on your topic. This may include sources that support your argument as well as those with opposing viewpoints. You should aim to find at least 5 sources; 3 of them should be scholarly. If you're struggling to find sources, don't hesitate to ask a librarian or your instructor for help.

2. For each source, provide a citation using the style guide that your discipline uses. Remember that includes the author, title, publication date, publisher, and any other relevant information. Think of the citation as a roadmap to finding the source again so your reader can read the original for themselves.

3. For each source, provide an annotation. The annotation should include a summary and evaluation.

When summarizing each source, be sure to include enough detail so that someone reading your annotated bibliography can understand the main points of the source without having to read it themselves. Write a brief summary of the source (150-200 words) that includes the following information:

- The main argument/thesis/finding of the source
- The evidence used to support the argument or thesis
- The purpose
- The audience

When evaluating sources, consider the type of source (e.g. primary research article, book chapter, news article) and its intended audience. This can give you insight into the purpose and reliability of the source. When evaluating each source, consider how it fits

into the larger conversation around your topic. Evaluate each source for quality, usefulness, and credibility based on the following criteria:

- Is the author an expert in their field?
- Is the information up-to-date?
- Is there bias present in the source?
- The relevance of the source to your topic - how does it contribute to the discussion of the topic?
- Does it provide new information or offer a unique perspective? Or does it simply reiterate what has already been said?

4. Organize your annotated bibliography alphabetically by author's last name. With the citation followed by the annotation.

6. Submit your annotated bibliography in a san serif font that is at least 11pt.