

AP U.S History – Research Paper Annotated Bibliography Sample

The following is a sample citation for an annotated bibliography. The information below explains the subject and research question for the sample. The footnotes at the bottom of the page explain each part of the citation/annotation and why it is included. Your annotation should explain how the source will help you with the research and writing of your paper. When you do your annotated bibliography, mimic this entry. The checklist on the following side will be used to assess your annotated bibliography.

Paper Topic: Soldiers during WWII and the challenges they faced in combat.

Primary Research Question: How did soldiers overcome the challenges they faced while fighting in Europe during WWII?

Ambrose, Stephen. *Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Nest*. New York: Touchstone, 2001.¹

Stephen Ambrose, a renowned World War II historian,² traces the history of Easy Company from the 101st Airborne Division. The narrative begins with Easy Company's training as a unit and follows the men through their mission to help liberate Europe from Germany during WWII. Through Ambrose's examination, he highlights the struggles that the men faced, the enemies they encountered during war, and the leadership exhibited by several different men.³ The information compiled by Ambrose makes this book essential in understanding how soldiers overcame the challenges they faced while fighting in Europe during WWII.⁴

¹ Note how the title of the book includes the subtitle as well as the main title. Also note that when the reference goes onto a second line, the citation is done with a "hanging indent" (the second line is indented).

² Though it is only a small phrase, this explains why this source is credible. Including a sentence like this that explains why the source's author has credibility is important in your annotation.

³ These next two sentences give a basic summary of what someone would find in this book. This does not have to go into great detail, but it should provide the general points of the source.

⁴ This last sentence offers analysis of why this source is important to my research. This part of your annotation should be linked to one of your research questions.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Annotated Bibliography Checklist
APUSH Research Paper

All sources are cited correctly using Chicago Manual of Style. Paper follows general formatting guidelines.

Good

Getting there

Needs work

Annotations are thorough and explain how the writer will use each source in the paper.

Good

Getting there

Needs work

Lists four to five sources.

Good

Getting there

Needs work

Contains primary sources.

Good

Getting there

Needs work

Contains scholarly secondary sources

Good

Getting there

Needs work

Includes a variety of sources (secondary sources: journal articles, scholarly books, biographies; primary sources: letters, diary entries, speeches, government documents, newspaper or magazine articles, autobiographies). All sources from credible places (no Wikipedia, no encyclopedia, no about.com etc.).

Good

Getting there

Needs work

Shows attention to detail in grammar, vocabulary, and sentence fluency.

Good

Getting there

Needs work