

Writing an Annotation

An **annotation** is an evaluation of the credibility and usefulness of a source. NHD recommends that you also explain how you used the source in your project and how the source helped you understand your topic.

Writing an Annotation

- Annotations must be three (3) sentences or less.
- Do not summarize the source in your annotation. Focus on assessing the usefulness of the source instead.
- Include the following in your annotation:
 - The type of source and how the source helped you understand your topic
 - How you used the source in your project
 - Why the source is credible
- Sample annotation format:
 - This _____ helped me/us understand _____. I/we used this information to describe _____. This source is credible because _____.

This _____ helped me/us understand _____.	I/we used this information to describe _____.	This source is credible because _____.
<p>This _____ Describe the type of source:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● book, article, letter, etc. <p>Helped me/us understand _____. Describe what you learned about your topic. Only include relevant information. Do not include new information here that isn't already included in your project.</p>	<p>Explain how you used the information. Did the information help you...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● argue your topic's significance? ● describe the context of your topic? ● explain the connection between your topic and the theme? ● answer your research question? 	<p>Describe why you trust the author(s) of this source.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credentials (PhD, historian, etc.) ● Areas of study ● Firsthand experience

Examples

Example of a Thorough Annotation:

This online research brief helped me learn about the effects of immigration on the economy during the Gilded Age. I used this source to explain the short-term impacts on the standard of living in the cities. This source is credible because the authors work for economic research firms that specialize in researching the impacts on the economy at various points in history.

<https://www.cato.org/publications/research-briefs-economic-policy/migrants-making-america-short-long-run-effects>

Annotations that Could be Improved:

This source is good because it is a .gov.

This source tells me stuff about my topic.

This source is trustworthy because the author is named.

This source is good because it has good information.

Time to Practice!

Using the same source that you used for NHD Source 1, complete the table below. Once you have drafted your annotation, write it out using complete sentences. See the rubric at the bottom for self-assessment.

This _____ helped me/us understand _____.	I/we used this information to describe _____.	This source is credible because _____.

Write your annotation in the box below using complete sentences. Limit your annotation to three (3) sentences or less.

Once your annotation is complete, copy and paste it into your NHD Source 1 Google Doc.

Rubric

Use the rubric below to self-assess. How did you do? Go back and revise your annotation if necessary.

3 - Proficient	2/1 - Approaching/Beginning	0 - Insufficient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> The annotation describes the type of source.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation thoroughly and clearly describes what the source helped me understand.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation thoroughly and clearly describes how I used the source in my project.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation thoroughly and clearly describes why the source is credible.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation is written in complete sentences that flow together well.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation is no longer than 3 sentences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> The annotation describes the type of source.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation attempts to describe what the source helped me understand, but it isn't thorough or clear.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation attempts to describe how I used the source in my project, but it isn't thorough or clear.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation attempts to describe the source's credibility, but it isn't thorough or clear.<input type="checkbox"/> The annotation is rewritten into sentences but they are fragmented or choppy.	<p>The annotation is missing one or more components.</p>