

Annotated Bibliography Instructions

Objective: In this course we are exploring an overview of factors contributing to wrongful convictions. Identify a research topic you wish to explore in greater detail. Find and read **at least 15** academic, peer-reviewed journal articles or books and compile an annotated bibliography for these 15 sources in APA format. Scholarly academic resources refer to articles found in academic journals, books and/or book chapters based on empirical research, and in some cases government reports. You will need to both summarize and evaluate in your annotation. *If* you encounter that your search does not produce enough sources, you may need to broaden your topic some more.

Format: Write the annotations for each source in paragraph form. Please use APA format. Use this link to view some **examples**:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/annotated_bibliography_samples.html

Grading: Your annotated bibliographies will be graded based on various criteria: the number and quality of sources and the quality of summary/evaluation. Provide a cover sheet with your name and the specific research question that guided your literature search.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. You may also contact the Monroe Library staff for assistance with your research.

The following is a description from: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html This site an excellent source, please use the site for reference and guidance.

A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, Web sites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "References" or "Works Cited" depending on the style format you are using. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographic information (i.e., the author, title, publisher, etc.).

An **annotation** is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Depending on your project or the assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following.

- **Summarize:** Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.

For more help, see our handout on [paraphrasing](#) sources.

- **Assess:** After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?

For more help, see our handouts on [evaluating resources](#).

- **Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?