

The Annotated Bibliography

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that provides a short summary and evaluation of each secondary source used in your paper. Each annotation includes a citation, a brief summary of the source, an explanation of the author's thesis or central argument, your evaluation of the source's strength and validity, and a detailed explanation of how you will use the source to advance your own argument.

Assignment:

As part of the research process for your final paper, you will be required to submit an annotated bibliography with the sources you find in your research. You will be required to find **10-12 sources** for your paper, **1 of which must be book-length** and only **1 of which may be an internet source**. *All others must be secondary and must be scholarly*. Your citations should make clear how each source is relevant to your argument, whether they support, contradict, or add another layer of complexity to your argument. You will also include a 1-page reflection on your research process.

Since your final research paper will be 15-20 pages in length (NOT including Works Cited), you will be required to cite 10-12 sources in both your Works Cited and your Annotated Bibliography. That said, you are only required to annotate 5 of your 10-12 sources. You may not annotate your internet source. Your 1-page reflection will discuss your research and writing process as a whole.

Requirements:

For **every source** you will include the following:

- Proper MLA citation (refer to the OWL Purdue for proper formatting)

For **each annotated source** you will include the following:

- Proper MLA citation (refer to the OWL Purdue for proper formatting)
- Four main points, **numbered as follows**:
 1. **Brief summary of the source.** What is this article about? What are the main points discussed/specific details that are relevant to mention? (2-3 sentences)
 2. **Explanation of the author's claim/thesis.** What is the reason for this article? What is the author's overall argument? (1-2 sentences)
 3. **Evaluation of the argument and the source's validity.** Do you think this is a strong argument overall? Why or why not? Is the source valid, considering its origin? Why or why not? (2-3 sentences)
 4. **Explanation of how you will utilize the source to advance your argument.**

Does this source support or contradict your argument? How? In what specific way will you use this source to clarify your own point? (*1-2 sentences*)

The Reflection:

Your reflection will be on a separate piece of paper and will be 1 page in length (12 point, typed, double-spaced). In the reflection, you will address the following points:

- How did you find the research process overall? Was it a fairly easy exercise or did you find it difficult? Why or why not. Be specific.
- Was it difficult to find sources? Where did your sources come from?
- What process did you employ to read/annotate your sources? Explain your process.
- How did you go about incorporating your sources into your paper? Where did you find them useful/not so? Explain.
- If you could start the research process over, what would you do differently? Address one point and explain.
- Finally, if you were to give yourself a grade on the *overall research project (essay and AB)*, what grade would you give yourself and why? You should consider the work you did throughout and the final product, here.

Due Dates:

Initial sources/annotations: 4/22

Final Draft: 5/20

****make sure to consult Canvas assignment page for any changes to due date(s).****

As with Essay 3, the Annotated Bibliography MUST be on the final day of class to receive credit. I will not accept any type of late submission for Essay 3 or the Annotated Bibliography.