

Annotated Bibliography

Essential Question: What are the components of an annotated bibliography?

Heading is how the annotated bibliographies first page should be set-up. The below is an example of a proper heading.

Student Name

Teacher Name

Class/Period

Date

Title of Bibliography

¹A **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 \(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/02/\)](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/02/) 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 \(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/03/\)](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/03/).
- **Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source ²helpful 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?

¹ "Welcome to the Purdue OWL." *Purdue OWL: Annotated Bibliographies*. Purdue University, 10 Mar. 2013. Web. 26 Aug. 2014.