



COMPILING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Date: 5 September, 2019

What is an annotated bibliography?

- A bibliography is a list of sources used or referred to in an essay or piece of academic work. It appears at the end of an essay. In the MLA citation style, a bibliography is called a Works Cited page. All sources, including books, articles, videos, images, and audio sources, must be cited/referenced on your Works Cited page. For the TMP and the IMP, you will also include a Works Cited slide at the end of your presentation slide deck.
- An annotated bibliography includes the source's citation as well as other information about the text. An annotated bibliography may be descriptive or analytical in nature. In AP Seminar, the annotated bibliography is more descriptive, although you can include some analytical aspects. In AP Research, the annotated bibliography is more analytical in nature.

Information that can be included in an annotated bibliography:

- **CITATION:** Use a consistent style: for AP Seminar, this will be MLA. Check the accuracy of the citation against the rules on OWL@Purdue. All items on the Work Cited page should be used and referenced in the text.
- **SHORT SUMMARY:** You can use an objective summary to track the critical information in the text. The objective summary should include:
 - (1) Title/Type of text
 - (2) Name of Writer(s)/Author(s)/Speaker(s)
 - (3) Central Idea (includes the purpose for the text and what the text is mainly about)
 - (4) Three sentences that track the development of the central idea. (Problem/Proposal/Solution)(Issue/Discussion/Solution)(Idea/Discussion/Conclusion)
- **SHORT STATEMENT:** Here you should provide some information about how the text will be useful to you/your team's research. You should address the limitations and implications of the conclusions reached in the text as they apply to your/your team's research. Include any information that you think stands out about the text, as well as any obvious weaknesses in the evidence.

Additional annotations:

Laura Brown, in her book, *Write Anything: A Complete Guide*, includes the following suggestions for annotations:

- **INTENDED AUDIENCE:** For whom is this work intended? Why is it useful for that audience?
- **USE:** What is the information for?
- **SIGNIFICANCE:** Why is this work important in its field?
- **METHODOLOGY:** What methodology does this source use? (Quantitative/Qualitative/Mixed)
- **VALUE:** How is this work especially valuable in the field?
- **AUTHOR'S BACKGROUND:** What is the author's background and approach?

-
- THEORETICAL ORIENTATION: Does this text use a particular theory? Is it influenced by a particular theoretical orientation?
 - USEFULNESS FOR YOUR RESEARCH? If you are compiling an annotated bibliography for a project you intended to do, how useful will this source be to you?