



Annotated Bibliographies

An annotated bibliography is a collection of sources that contains an assessment or summary of each source. They will differ depending on the citation style, professor preference, and assignment requirements.

Bibliographies differ depending on citation style, and are often called “References” or “Works Cited” pages. The annotated bibliography format will be consistent with normal bibliographies in their citation style, but will contain the annotations below the source. These annotations are a paragraph or multiple paragraphs following the cited work, typically containing a summary of the source and the relevance to your research.

Research Articles

For research articles, the annotation will typically include the following:

- The purpose or the research question
- The methods used in the research
- The findings and their significance to your research

Other Works

For other works, such as books, it will typically include the following:

- A summary of the text
- An explanation of why this text is valuable
- Your reasoning for how this fits into your research

Examples

Research Article (APA)

Last name, First initial. Middle initial. (Year). Title of the article. *Journal*, volume(issue), page range.

(The annotation will go here. Indentation can vary; some require the entire paragraph to be indented, and some only require the first line of the paragraph—be sure to check assignment instructions. Also, check assignment instructions for length requirements. There will typically be an emphasis on the purpose of their research and what question it tries to answer. The methods and findings are also necessary to include. The significance of the study to their research, as well as the significance to yours, will also be included.)

Book (MLA)

Last name, First name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, Publication Date.

(The annotation will go here. Indentation can vary; some require the entire paragraph to be indented, and some only require the first line of the paragraph— be sure to check assignment instructions. Also, check assignment instructions for length requirements. This annotation will include a summary of the text and an explanation of why the text is valuable. This will also include the reasoning for its inclusion in your research.)

Journal article (Chicago)

Last name, First name. "Article Title." *Journal*, Volume Number, no. Issue Number(year): page range.

(The annotation will go here. Indentation can vary; some require the entire paragraph to be indented, and some only require the first line of the paragraph—be sure to check assignment instructions. Also, check assignment instructions for length requirements. This annotation will include a summary of the text, either through an explanation of the research methods and findings or an explanation of why the text is valuable. This will also include the reasoning for its inclusion in your research.)

For more information on annotated bibliographies, make an appointment with a [writing tutor](#). Appointments are available in person at the [Student Success Center](#) or online.

Adapted from the University of Louisville Writing Center.