

Annotated Bibliography

Why do an annotated bibliography?

- Provide information about each source
- Explain the content of source
- Tell readers to check out these sources
- Explain why one source is better than another
- Help audience understand the sources
- Describes or evaluates source

What does the annotated bibliography do?

- Helps keep track of sources you read
- Describes type of source
- Help you think critically about your sources
- Proves you understand the resource
- Establishes your research as valid
- Places your study in a professional conversation
- Helps others establish if your research will help their research
- Provides background information of work happening in the field
- Evaluates credibility of the source

What is included in an annotated bibliography?

- Brief. 5-7 sentences
- Use proper citation format
 - MLA
 - APA
 - Chicago
- Explain main points
- Explain qualifications of the author
- Explain any biases
- Establish potential connections between sources
- Discuss writer's background
- **Note: Not all instructors ask for the same elements**

Sample MLA Annotation

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anchor Books, 1995.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.

Sample APA Annotation

AICPA sets ethical standards for outsourcing. (2005). *Journal of Accountancy*, 199(1), 8.

Retrieved from <http://www.journalofaccountancy.com/>

This article presents the new standards for outsourcing developed by the AICPA ethics committee. The standards are summarized, and a brief discussion is included of the implications going forward for business and international trade. The authors indicate that changes to the business community will be relatively minor. This is a helpful source for getting an overview of the current ethics standards in outsourcing.

Sample Chicago Annotated Bibliography

Evans, Richard J. "German Social Democracy and Women's Suffrage 1891-1918." *Journal of Contemporary History* 15, no. 3 (July 1980): 533-57.

Evans emphasizes the significance of the role of female activists in the German Social Democratic Party. He details the rhetoric, organizational structure, and tactics that women in the SPD used and argues that their pro-socialist movement had more of an impact on women's equality than did bourgeoisie reforms. He also describes the effect that the woman had on their male counterparts within the SPD.