



Annotated Bibliography

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An **annotated bibliography** consists of the bibliographic information for the sources you are using for your research assignment. The sources are listed according to MLA, APA, or Chicago Style specifications. However, the most important part of an annotated bibliography are the **annotations**—which may be in the form of summaries, evaluations, or reflections—for each of the sources listed.

What is the purpose of an Annotated Bibliography?

Sometimes professors will ask for an annotated bibliography during your research process, and other times it will accompany the final draft of your assignment. The annotated bibliography helps your professors to monitor your research process and/or your understanding of the sources you used.

Writing an annotated bibliography also helps *you* to read and think critically about your sources and their usefulness for your assignment. It is a great way to get a good understanding of your topic and the academic conversation about it. This will be especially helpful if you need to formulate a thesis statement—you will be better able to see the many points of view about your topic and then determine your own opinion.

How do I set up an Annotated Bibliography?

1. Center the words, Annotated Bibliography, at the top of a page.
2. Depending on the style your instructor wants you to use (MLA, APA, or Chicago Style), list a bibliographic citation for each of your sources. Consult handouts or other guides (available at the Writing Center) for information on how to properly do this. *Note: The Annotated Bibliography is set up the same way as a Works Cited or References page; the only differences are the title of the page (Annotated Bibliography) and the added annotations.*
3. Immediately following each source's citation, write an annotation. The annotation may start right after the last item in the citation or may start on a new line below the citation—**check with your professor for his/her preference.** The length of the annotation will depend on the requirements of your professor and the complexity of the source.
4. The annotation may consist of any or all of the following:
 - a. **Summary:** Discuss the main topic, any arguments, and points of the source. The length of this summary will depend on the complexity of the source.
 - b. **Evaluation:** Determine the credibility/reliability of the author and the source itself. What are the weaknesses or strengths in the arguments/information presented? Did the author support his/her ideas? Was the author objective, or did he/she let certain biases influence the writing?
 - c. **Reflection:** How will this source be useful for you in your paper? With which specific ideas do you think the source will be used?

EXAMPLES: (Note. The length and development of the ideas in the annotation may vary depending on your professor's requirements and the complexity of the source)

(OVER)

Annotation Immediately Following the Citation

(Citation is formatted in MLA)

Green, Gary S. "The Other Criminalities of Animal Freeze-Killers: Support for a Generality of Deviance."

Society & Animals 10.1 (Feb 2002): 5-30. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 15 November 2005. This article explores the act of shining a bright light in a deer's eyes in order to make it freeze, hence making it an easy target to kill. This act is classified as animal abuse. Green specifically analyzes Virginia males who kill deer this way, asserting that these men have twice the rate of violent crimes than other men. Green proves to be a reliable source because he has studied this subject intensely by conducting specific experiments and doing extensive research about the men who commit these crimes. I will be able to use this source when discussing how people who abuse animals are also likely to commit violent crimes.

Annotation Started Below the Citation

(Citation is formatted in APA)

Green, G. S. (2002). The other criminalities of animal freeze-killers: Support for a generality of deviance.

Society & Animals, 10(1), 5-30. Retrieved from *Academic Search Premier*.

This article explores the act of shining a bright light in a deer's eyes in order to make it freeze, hence making it an easy target to kill. This act is classified as animal abuse. Green specifically analyzes Virginia males who kill deer this way, asserting that these men have twice the rate of violent crimes than other men. Green proves to be a reliable source because he has studied this subject intensely by conducting specific experiments and doing extensive research about the men who commit these crimes. I will be able to use this source when discussing how people who abuse animals are also likely to commit violent crimes.

The following source was consulted in the design of this handout:

Stacks, Geoff. "Annotated Bibliographies." *The Online Writing Lab*. 12 October 2004. Web. Purdue University.

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This page is located at: www.strose.edu/writingcenter

The College of Saint Rose, 2007 (updated 2009) Designed by Jaclyn Amoroso