

Annotated Bibliography

Research Paper Step 3



Definition

- A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, 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 evaluation. Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and an evaluation of each of the sources, and it reflects how the source will support your thesis.

Summarize

- What is the author's thesis? What is the purpose of the source? Argue, inform, explain, etc.? What are the main points/examples used to support the thesis? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.

Evaluate

- After summarizing a source, evaluate it. Is it useful to your paper? Is the information reliable? Is the source biased or objective?

Reflect

- Once you've summarized and evaluated a source, reflect. Ask how this source helps shape your thesis/argument? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

Annotated Bib Template

[MLA Source Citation]. [Author's name] [argues, shows, demonstrates, bolsters, suggests, expresses, describes, reveals, delineates, etc.] that [summarize the thesis or claim the author presents]. An example of [author's thesis/claim] is [present example]. [Author's name] further supports [his claim/thesis with, via, etc.] a number of [reasons, facts, statistics, case studies, symbols, quotes, images, narratives, elements of an artwork, etc.]. First, [present example]. Second, [example]. Third, [example]. [Author's] [position theory, ideology, perspective, etc.] is [problematic, supported, etc.]. [Transitional word], [author's name] [assumes, implies, etc.] that [present a specific fact or claim that contradicts or seems implausible]. As a result, [based on your findings, present your overall opinion of the piece's effectiveness, reliability, usefulness, etc.]

Annotated Bib Entry

Sanger, David E., and Eric Schmitt. “Russian Ships Near Data Cables Are Too Close for U. S. Comfort.” *New York Times*. New York Times, 25 Oct. 2015. Web. 26 Oct. 2015. Sanger and Schmitt present evidence that the U. S. is becoming increasingly concerned about Russia’s possible interference with . . .

A Completed Annotated Bib

“To Combat ‘Modern Slavery’.” Editorial. *NYTimes.com*. The New York Times, 1 Oct. 2012. Web. 22 Jan. 2013. The *New York Times* editor examines the impact of the executive order signed by President Obama on September 25, 2012. The editor supports his thesis with a number of facts. First, he explains how the provisions may be game-changing because the rules will “forbid all contractors from charging recruitment fees” a practice that can lead to employees owing unethical moneylenders. Second, the editor contends that Mr. Obama should become more proactive in pushing through the bipartisan bill in Congress, “the End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act.” Third, the editor explains that the bill before Congress would provide numerous safeguards against unfair wages, poor working conditions, and various forms of worker exploitation by inflicting severe penalties on the employers. The author’s position is well supported. However, the editor’s calculation that the delay in reauthorizing the bill lays with the House and its efforts to tie this bill to victim’s reproductive rights seems unfortunately likely given the state of our government these days. As a result, the short editorial provides useful and pertinent information regarding the United States’ ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking.