

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY BASICS

**Why-** To help you organize your sources prior to outline and later paper development

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.).

**WHAT?** An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation. *Therefore, an annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources.* Depending on your project or the assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following.

**Summarize:** Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.

**Assess:** After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?

**Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

As you develop your annotated bibliography think about:

- Avoid relying on citation generators like Easy Bib and Citation Maker. They often contain errors and will jeopardize your annotated bibliography from being correct
- Use the appropriate style guide for your topic/discipline. Need online help?
- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>
- All entries should be alphabetized by the FIRST WORD appearing in the citation
- An annotated bib asks you to think critically about WHY or WHY NOT a source will help support the argument you are crafting in your paper. The MORE specific you can be now will help you later choose the best evidence to support your argument
- When you go to create a works cited page, you will simply lift the source you cited in the paper and include them on a separate, one page alphabetized entry at the end of your paper

Here are the items you need to include for each source entry

- Properly formatted citation  
Indent (see the example on the back) and in a paragraph using complete sentences (no bullet points or numbers, please) this paragraph should contain the following information
- Brief summation of the author's main argument (s) Use your ACE sheet
- Credentials of author (s) Use your RAVEN sheet
- Any information about the research/study the author (s) conducted (USE RAVEN)
- How/Why the author (s) were involved in the research/study (USE RAVEN and ACE)
- What bias might the author (s) have in their presentation of their study/research (USE RAVEN)
- Will the source be helpful to you as you develop your argument? IF you can be specific to say "this will help me prove my research question because, conclude the paragraph with this sentence"

From each source print the full copy and highlight what you are using from the sources and upload a pic onto a TRELLO card (likely you already have a card for this source as you RAVENed and ACEed it) of the quote(s) OR Save the source

digitally, create a source card (likely you already have again because you RAVENed and ACEed) your sources. You can use the online annotations you are creating to point out each piece of evidence.

To make it easier when you go to develop your paper, consider making a comment on a digital flashcard that includes the quote directly so you don't have to read back through the annotations you made for the document.

Check out the sample entry below for how your entries should look.

## Sample MLA Annotated Bibliography

Okely, Anthony. "Evidence-Guided Approaches to Addressing Child Obesity: What Approaches Can Dietitians Use in Their Everyday Practice?" *Nutrition and Dietetics* 64.1. (2007): 140-141. Web. 7 May 2009.

In this article, Anthony Okely describes the health consequences of childhood obesity and discusses several programs aimed at helping prevent unhealthy weight gain in children. He sees parents as the primary source of power over a child's unhealthy weight gain. This article is an editorial in a peer-reviewed journal. Although this article is an editorial, it is still a good source of research-based information, as the author uses 16 detailed references from several countries. The author is a credible source because he has a Doctorate in Education and serves as the Director of the Child Obesity Research Centre at Australia's University of Wollongong; he is also a Senior Lecturer at the same university. The number of references he provides in the article also boosts the credibility of the opinions he offers. This article will be used in the research paper for its basic statistics on childhood obesity. Also, the reference list at the end of the article is a valuable source of credible articles on this topic. The fact that the article is from Australia limits its effectiveness as a major source for the paper (Okely 140-141).