

# WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An **annotated bibliography** is a list of citations that include a brief paragraph that summarizes, evaluates, and reflects on each source. The purpose of the annotation is to help you determine how you will use each source in your project and where it fits in the research literature.

Follow the specific directions for citation styles and annotations provided by your instructor, but an annotation typically includes:



**Citation:** Include the full citation for the source using the appropriate citation style like MLA, APA, or Chicago.

**Summary:** Summarize the content, purpose, and main arguments of the source, including central themes and scope. How did the author(s) answer their research question? What methods did they use?

**Evaluation:** Critically assess the source and offer criticisms.

Questions to consider:

- Who is the author?
- What is their background and expertise on the top
- Who is the intended audience?
- What are its strengths or weaknesses?

**Reflection:** Explain how the source relates to your topic.

Ask yourself:

- Why is this source important to your research?
- How has this source helped you narrow or develop your topic?
- How did this source build on your understanding of the topic?
- Does it refute points raised in other sources?
- What information do you still need to find for your research?