

Creating Annotated Bibliographies

A Research & Library Skills Exercise ♦ 2009-2010
www.lib.umd.edu/UES/engl101/exercises.html



Instructors Name: _____ ENGL 101 Section: _____ Class Meeting Time: _____

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

What is an annotated bibliography? Why use it?

An *annotated bibliography* is a list of sources followed by brief summaries that make value statements about the importance of the source. It is a research tool used to assist you in synthesizing the main themes discussed in a source (e.g., article). Annotations allow someone unfamiliar with a source to quickly get a sense of what the information is about, learn the arguments being presented as well as learn its usefulness in research.

Here is an example of a citation of an article and its annotation:

Greene, Stuart. "Mining Texts in Reading to Write." *Journal of Advanced Composition* 12.1 (1992): 151-67.

This article works from the assumption that reading and writing inform each other, particularly in the matter of rhetorical constructs. Greene introduces the concept of "mining texts" for rhetorical situations when reading with a sense of authorship. Considerations for what can be mined include language, structure, and context, all of which can be useful depending upon the writer's goals. The article provides some practical methods that compliment Doug Brent's ideas about reading as invention.

This example is taken from: www.uwc.ucf.edu/handouts/Writing_Annotated_Bib.pdf

To read more about annotated bibliographies, visit this guide: www.lib.umd.edu/guides/annotate.html
It includes a thorough description of how to write your own annotated bibliographies.

The Exercise:

Using the databases introduced during Library Day (e.g., **CQ Researcher**, **Academic Search Premier**, and **LexisNexis Academic**) find 3 articles on your topic and create an annotated bibliography for each of them. Your annotated bibliography should include articles from these categories:

- 2 peer-reviewed sources (also called academic or scholarly articles)
- 1 popular source (often called a magazine or newspaper article)

Annotations should be **between 50 and 150 words each**. Be sure that your annotation includes evaluative comments about the relative benefit/ importance of the article in terms of you paper's argument.

Format:

Type and double space your annotations. Include the complete citation of the article in MLA style format.

Your work space:

Article citation (use MLA format):

Annotation:

Article citation (use MLA format):

Annotation:

Article citation (use MLA format):

Annotation:
