

Annotated Bibliography

Note: This document should only be used as a reference and should not replace assignment guidelines.

The information below is from John Goshert's *Entering the Academic Conversation*.

Annotations as a record

A good annotated bibliography will demonstrate your knowledge of the academic conversation surrounding a topic. Annotated bibliographies are usually prepared in advance of a research paper. However, many researchers compose annotations anytime they read an article to record summaries and responses about what they have read.

You will probably spend more time researching and reading your annotated bibliography than writing it, since the written portion is brief. To avoid re-reading and backtracking in your research, consider annotating each article as you go. Some instructors even allow students to copy sections of these annotations to use as summaries in the final paper.

Format

There are no official MLA or APA formats for annotated bibliographies, though they generally have two parts: the **citation** and the **annotation**. Some may include a third introductory portion, called a **preface**, but this section is uncommon at the undergraduate level.

Tompkins, Jane. "Indians: Textualism, Morality, and the Problem of History." *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 13, no. 1, 1986, pp. 101-119.

Tomkins explores her attempts to uncover the "truth" about historical encounters between Native Americans and European colonists through a personal narrative. Documenting her research process chronologically, Tomkins shows how her perspective changes as she consults historical documents written by first the colonizers and then the colonized. Tomkins ultimately concludes that since no overarching historical narrative exists, students of history must seek out competing versions of history to approximate the truth. This article represents an important contribution to the field of historiography and will figure prominently in my paper's methodology section.

Citation

Each entry will include a bibliographic citation in APA, MLA, or another standard format. Follow citation guidelines to create a citation as you would for a references or works cited page.

Annotation

The annotation describes the type of source, summarizes its content, and may also evaluate its quality or usefulness for a certain project, usually in three to four sentences. There are several different types of annotations, the most common of which are:

Descriptive annotation: a pure summary of the source

Evaluative annotation: includes a summary as well as an evaluation of points like the rhetorical context, the author's credibility, the quality of the evidence, the source's place in the academic conversation, and the value of the source to the current project. The example above is an evaluative annotation.

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Preface

Some annotated bibliographies will include a preface at the beginning that includes your research question and an overview of the current knowledge about the subject. The preface will introduce the reader briefly to the sources and describe their scope and place in the conversation.

Final Organization

For your final annotated bibliography, arrange your sources in alphabetical order by the authors' last names. Include a header in the appropriate format.

Sam Blaze

Prof. Johnston

English 2010

12 April 2012

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Tompkins, Jane. "Indians: Textualism, Morality, and the Problem of History." *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 13, no. 1, 1986, pp. 101-119.

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Valentine, Leo. "Redskins and Native Pride: Minority Mascots in Majority Culture." *Native American Studies Quarterly*, vol. 9, no. 1, 1998, pp. 235-279.

Writing from a Native American perspective, Valentine gives a historical overview of the use of Native American mascots for non-Native sports teams before delving into...