



ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

WHAT IS A ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

A **bibliography** is a list of sources one has used for researching a topic. The list of sources may include books, journals, Web sites, periodicals, etc. Bibliographies are sometimes referred to as "References" or "Works Cited" depending on the style format you are using.

An **annotation** is a summary and/or evaluation.

Annotated Bibliography is a list of sources that includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

The assignment or project will determine what will be included in your annotation. Your annotations may include one or more of the following listed below.

- Citation: In correct format (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).
- Summary: Main ideas of the source.
- Evaluation: Credibility, reliability, bias, and author's background.
- Reflection: How it supports your research, themes, or arguments.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

Writing an annotated bibliography helps you read sources more critically, understand the ongoing conversations in the field, and develop a strong, focused thesis for your research. It also provides a foundation for further study by showcasing significant sources and perspectives related to your topic.

EXAMPLE:

Terms in parentheses (i.e., SUMMARY) are included only for illustration and should NOT appear in your annotations.

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anchor Books, 1995.

(BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY)

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic (**SUMMARY**).

In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.

Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach (**EVALUATION**).

Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable (**REFLECTION**).