

Annotated Bibliographies

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a type of works cited (MLA) page. It contains the list of sources used, along with a brief summary of its main points. There are two main parts in an annotated bibliography: the citation and the annotation.

How to Format:

Citation – The citations should be listed similarly to a regular works cited page with the citations all in alphabetical order however, in an annotated bibliography, the citation is followed up with either a summary annotation or an evaluative annotation depending on the style.

Annotation – The annotation is a bit more complex and consists of three essential parts: summary, evaluation, and reflection. Generally, each section should be a paragraph long (at least 3 to 6 sentences).

Summary - The summary is a description of the main points addressed in the source. It should include details such as the author's name, when/why they wrote it, and the main arguments and/or points made.

Evaluation - The evaluation in an annotated bibliography is a brief assessment and critique of the source's main argument(s). This section should address the author's point of view and any biases or faults in their reasoning, if any.

Reflection - The reflection concludes the annotation. This section is for you to determine the level of applicability/support this source will provide towards your paper.

Other formatting tips:

- Keep one-inch margins
- Annotations should be double-spaced (do not add an additional third space between citation and annotation)
- Indent (0.5 from the margin) each section of the annotation if they are especially long
- Longer titles in citation should be formatted to hang

The citation and annotated bibliography should look like this:

*This example is in MLA format.

Annotated Bibliography Format

The **citation** should be formatted according to the format your paper is written.

The **evaluation** section is the main portion of the annotated bibliography and should address how it relates to your paper as well as any critiques on the source.

	<p>Hettinger, Edwin C. "Justifying Intellectual Property." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i>, vol. 18, no. 1, 1989, pp. 31–52. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/2265190.</p>
	<p>Hettinger’s article investigates what is meant by “intellectual property.” He explores and defines the forms of expression that are recognized under this distinction as well as different labels this distinction contains (copyright, patents, trademarks, etc.) Through this article, Hettinger makes clearer the slim boundary between what is and isn’t considered intellectual property.</p> <p>This article is significant in my research because it defines “intellectual property” as “expressions of ideas” and not the ideas themselves, however, as the article mentions, when it comes to written forms of expression such as fiction, poetry, and academic writing, the way things are said are often just as important as what is said. The two are intertwined and crucial to the art form. Because of this, this gives certain rights to the author and introduces the “fair use” clause which restricts the ways one’s intellectual property can be used by the public.</p> <p>I will be using this section to introduce the connection between Nietzsche’s Will to Power being present in an author’s desire to limit other individuals’ interactions with their work. A potential weakness I see is the emphasis on the political sphere as opposed to the individual, however the need for justification on behalf of the concept of intellectual property itself helps to overshadow this in my argument that a power is being exercised.</p>

See here, the **summary** is kept to 3 sentences. This section should be relatively short.

The **reflection** is to assess the usefulness of the source toward your paper and address any weaknesses/strengths you may anticipate in your paper.

References:

MLA Citation Guide (8th Edition): Annotated Bibliography

https://columbiacollege-ca.libguides.com/mla/annot_bib

Purdue Online Writing Lab, Annotated Bibliography Examples

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies

Disclaimer: We did not include all the resources conferred to formulate this handout. We encourage students to conduct further research to find additional resources. The format of this list is not commensurate with a standard format.