



So you have to write an
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ...

We know how you feel ...




But there's hope ...

We at the Writing center are here to help!



So what the heck IS an
Annotated Bibliography, anyway?

Def: a list of sources, cited according to a specific style, that have been summarized and evaluated for later reference



In other words...

It's a way to organize your sources and notes for a specific research project that will save you time later

full citations (bibliography)

AND

summary/analysis of each source (annotation)

Characteristics of the Genre

Bibliography

- ▶ Use bibliographic citation as a heading
- ▶ Rely on a style manual
- ▶ List sources in ABC order by authors' last names
- ▶ Employ hanging indentation

Annotations

- ▶ Include summary AND analysis
- ▶ Concise, specific, informative language
- ▶ Quote material that you want to work with in your essay
- ▶ Record important ideas you want to remember
- ▶ Detail is more important than length: how do you plan to use the source?

Example: ARA

Ehrenreich, B. (2001). *Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America*. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

In this book of nonfiction based on the journalist's experiential research, Ehrenreich attempts to ascertain whether it is possible for an individual to live on a minimum-wage in America. Taking jobs as a waitress, a maid in a cleaning service, and a Walmart sales employee, the author summarizes and reflects on her work, her relationships with fellow workers, and her financial struggles in each situation.

An experienced journalist, Ehrenreich is aware of the limitations of her experiment and the ethical implications of her experiential research tactics and reflects on these issues in the text. The author is forthcoming about her methods and supplements her experiences with scholarly research on her places of employment, the economy, and the rising cost of living in America. Ehrenreich's project is timely, descriptive, and well-researched.

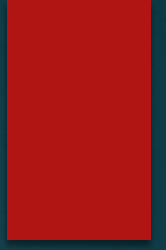
Example: MLA

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

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.

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.

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.



Why Write an Annotated Bibliography?



Tips & Strategies



use detailed, specific language

Make sure each annotation conveys something specific about a source

Incorporate Quotes

Rely on the author's language to evoke detail and spur analysis

Make Connections

- Make connections to your own ideas and among your sources

Record your Views

- Put your own voice in conversation with your sources

Responding to a Source

- Are you satisfied with the explanation and examples provided in the text?
 - Identify and discuss any holes or oversights
 - Note areas that support your own arguments
- What did you learn from reading this source? What questions does it raise?
 - What would you like to learn more about?
 - What new research does it imply?
- What connections can you make?
 - Discuss any current events that come to mind
 - Make connections among your other sources

Questions???