

# Annotated Bibliographies

## Annotated Bibliography:

An annotated bibliography consists of a list of books, articles, and other references you will be using in your paper, as well as a short descriptive and/or evaluative commentary on each source. Begin by providing a properly formatted citation for each source and then give a brief description. The citation style that you use (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) will depend on your discipline. If you are uncertain as to which format to use, check with your professor.

**Annotated** = with notes and comments

## Purpose:

Annotated bibliographies are a fantastic research tool, helping you become more informed about your chosen topic, encouraging you to think critically about your sources, and prompting you to consider how you will use the information to shape your argument.

## What to Include:

What you include in your annotation will vary depending on the assignment and the instructor; however, some elements you may want to consider are:

- the author's argument (thesis statement)
- a brief explanation of how the author develops or supports the thesis
- a statement regarding the author's purpose or reason for writing the piece
- a description of the author's intended audience
- the author's credentials (if known)
- an indication of the role the source will play in your paper

## Format:

Use whichever citation format is appropriate for the discipline (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.). Sources should be listed in alphabetical order and are typically double-spaced. We recommend that you always consult your assignment guidelines to confirm your instructor's expectations regarding both format and content of your annotations.

**A Note on Annotations vs. Abstracts:** Often scholarly articles begin with an abstract, which is the summary of the author's article to help the reader determine if they should read the entire article. An abstract is **not** the same thing as an annotation. The annotation is written in your own words to demonstrate why the source is relevant to your research question or specific assignment.

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**For sample annotations, see reverse.**

## Example Annotated Bibliography Entries (MLA Format)

Adapted from CSU Northridge

### Annotated Bibliography

Acuña, Rodolfo. *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*. Longman, 2000.

The author discusses gender discrimination within the Chicano Movement and how the movement affected social changes in the 1970s. This book also provides an excellent summary of Chicana/o history, including key events and players. This article will help provide historical context for my discussion of the struggles many Hispanic students face.

Cabera, Nolan L., and Amado M. Padilla. "Entering and Succeeding in the Culture of College: The Story of Two Mexican Heritage Students." *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 26, no. 2, May 2004, pp. 152-169. *Academic Search Elite*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739986303262604>.

Using interviews, the article explores how two Stanford Latino students adapted to the pressures of college. The article discusses the common challenges faced by many first-time college students who rely on family, faculty, and staff for emotional and academic support. The article also outlines the support services available to students during college and the strategies that can help students succeed in higher education. I will use the discussion of support services and strategies to support my claim that universities should develop strong programs to help students transition into college life.

Pardo, Mary S. *Mexican American Women Activists: Identity and Resistance in Two Los Angeles Communities*. Temple UP, 1998.

Describes two community-based organizations focused on empowering Latinas and tackling social justice issues in Los Angeles. Pardo details some of the most helpful responses to social threats. I will use this to illustrate practical steps that could be integrated into college programs.