

## Annotated Bibliography

### What is an annotated bibliography?

It is a citation followed by a brief summary and detailed evaluation of the source you cited. You will have a topic, and you will need to discuss in the annotation how the source is relevant to your topic.

### First: Start with the annotation

Before you begin typing, make sure to cite the source you are annotating. When citing make sure to follow the guidelines of either APA, MLA, or any other writing styles your professor is requiring:

#### The format of an APA citation:

Author's surname, initial(s), (Date Published). Title of source. Location of publisher: publisher.  
Retrieved from URL

#### The format of an MLA citation:

Author's Last name, First name. "Title of Source." Title of Company/Journal, other contributors, version, numbers, publisher, publication date, location.

### Writing the annotation

The annotation will be about a paragraph long, or 150 to 250 words. When you are writing, be sure to use third person (he, she, the author). To start, about three of your first sentences should explain what the article is about and what the main purpose is. Then make sure to talk about elements like who the intended audience is and why the author wrote the article, you can dedicate one to two sentences to this. You also need to be sure you examine the author's credibility and list any biases they have, this only requires one to two sentences. Then to wrap up your annotation, talk about how the article relates to your topic, which also needs about one to two sentences.

### Example:

#### Sample Entry from an Annotated Bibliography

##### Citation

Booker, Susan M. "Dioxin in Vietnam: Fighting a Legacy of War." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 109.3 (2001):116. *ProQuest*. Web. 29 Apr. 2009.

##### Annotation

Booker reports on the launch of a joint research program on the human and environmental health effects from spraying Agent Orange and other herbicides during the Vietnam War. The extent of Agent Orange exposure among the Vietnamese, identification of highly contaminated areas and monitoring migration of dioxin are assessed. The author asserts the government is not doing enough to help the Vietnamese people who still suffer from Agent Orange. This is written for people with little prior knowledge of this subject and is easy to understand. It was a useful starting point for writing this paper and because of its currency this is a valuable source for my research.