

The Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a Works Cited or References page which also includes a brief summary and evaluation of each selection. It generally follows a certain format (MLA, APA, or another citation style), but always contains citations followed by descriptions. The annotated bibliography can also be used as an instrument for keeping track of both references and research.

An annotated bibliography entry should contain:

- **Citation:** In this case, in MLA format.
 - **Summary:** Which briefly reviews the content of the source.
 - **Reflection:** Which shows how this source might be useful in your essay.
 - **Evaluation:** Which indicates why this source is particularly reliable or trustworthy.
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Before you start, let's review.....

- An annotated bibliography will generally include a summary of the source, the key ideas or findings, position (if it is an evaluation or argument), and any other essential information.
- Other areas of consideration are how the source fits within the topic being researched, what makes the source significant, how the source compares to other sources, how the source adds to the global understanding of the topic. An annotated bibliography is a great way to reflect on your sources and how they will fit into your essay before starting a rough draft.
- **Specific format, length, and organization of the annotated bibliography will vary from professor to professor, so always double check to ensure you are following directions provided in class.**

Other points to consider

- Be brief, but be sure to include the key details (key details only)
- List publication information first, and list in correct format (MLA or APA)
- Use complete sentences, and avoid the passive voice
- Be sure to properly cite direct quotes

See sample annotated bibliography entries on reverse!

Sample MLA Annotated Bibliography Entry

Bal, Mieke. "Light Writing: Portraiture in a Post-Traumatic Age." *Mosaic* 37 (2004): 1-

19. Print. **Citation**

Summary This article begins with an introduction to different "cultural analysis perspectives" through which photography has traditionally been analyzed (1). **Reflection** It is a very good brief introduction to photography theory. There is a helpful description of photography in relation to time, "This idea makes the binary between time as flow and time as catastrophic moment; photography as frozen moment stolen from the merciless flow of time, or as moment blasted out of time, dysfunctional." (11-12). **Evaluation** Mieke Bal, a cultural critic and theorist who currently holds professorships at both the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences and the University of Amsterdam, also provides in this article the specific knowledge necessary to analyze a photographic portrait. She emphasizes "the primacy of the face" and the "mobilization of portraiture as a soldier for individualism" in relation to identity politics. (5,7).

Sample APA Annotated Bibliography Entry

Ziff, B. H., & Rao, P. V. (1997). *Borrowed power: Essays on cultural appropriation*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. **Citation**

Summary This book is a collection of essays that discuss cultural appropriation. The introduction by the editors provides a clear framework for and definition of cultural appropriation. Ziff and Rao quote the *Resolution of the Writers' Union of Canada* and define cultural appropriation as "the taking – from a culture that is not one's own – of intellectual property, cultural expressions or artifacts, history and ways of knowledge" (Ziff and Rao 1). **Reflection** This of course presents an interesting question: What happens when an artist doing the "taking" has access and even the right to draw on more than one cultural background? **Evaluation** In addition to these helpful definitions and thought-provoking questions, I think this text will function as a good entry-point into evaluating the texts I choose with respect to postmodern/postcolonial theory.