

## Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is not only a list of MLA entries for each of the sources (books, professional journals, periodicals, websites, etc.) used for researching a topic but each entry consists of two parts: the first being a summary of the source and the second part being an evaluation or critique of the source.

### Summary

- A summary should answer the following questions: What topic or topics are covered? What is the point of this book or article? What are the main arguments? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?
- When summarizing a source you can paraphrase the information or quote it. Quotes are not required in a research paper and should be limited to one or two if used. Paraphrasing is better because the mental process required for successful paraphrasing helps you grasp the full meaning of the original material. It is your rendition and your understanding, of the material you have read, presented in a new form. It is a legitimate way (when accompanied by accurate documentation) to borrow from a source.

### 5 Steps to Effective Paraphrasing

1. Read and reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original passage aside, and write your own paraphrase
3. Write down the whole MLA entry information (include page numbers). For two reasons, 1, so you can easily put together the Works Cited page that eventually goes in your paper and 2, if you need to get back to that source you have all the information needed right at hand.
4. Reread your rendition and check it with the original to make sure your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks for all material that you take exactly from the source.

### Summary examples to compare

#### The original passage:

Students frequently overuse direct quotations in taking notes and as a result, they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

**A legitimate paraphrase:**

In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).

**A plagiarized version:**

Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

**Critique/Evaluation**

This section also has two parts: first give a critique which states the credentials of the author and/or the credibility of the source. For example: Dr. Frankenstein, while working for Bell Laboratories, published this article in the *Journal of Applied Physics* in 1906. The credentials of the author(s) is usually given in the front or back cover of a book. If you are using a web site you may need to do some clicking or scrolling to find information about the author. Start at the home page but if it is not there click on an "about this site" link to learn the name of the author. If qualifications are not listed, look for links to the author's home page or google the author to provide evidence of his or her interests and expertise.

Other questions to consider while assessing a source and determining if the information is reliable are: What is the goal of this source? Is the content fact or opinion? Are sources of claimed facts clearly indicated? Is this source biased or objective? Is it trying to persuade the reader or sell something?

The next part is a reflection part. After you assess the source, state how this information can be used in your research. Will you base your experimental design from it? Does it help you come up with or provide support for your hypothesis? Does it provide a scientific equation or concept you need? Is it a statistical fact or profound problem that gives reason to do study?

This information on writing an annotated bibliography was paraphrased or taken verbatim from the Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab website. If you would like more detail on writing an annotated bibliography please visit the following site.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

You need 15 different sources (at least 10 must be peer-reviewed and 10 need to be cited in your research paper and documented in your *Works Cited*). When putting together your annotated bib, please put the 8 peer-reviewed sources first and in alphabetical order by bib entry. Then list the other 7, also in alphabetical order. Each entry should be in proper MLA format. Please number each entry and label each section as summary and critique.