

**Annotated Bibliography: MLA Format**

*Information about annotated bibliographies can be found in section 5.3.1 of the current* MLA Handbook *(p. 130). The* MLA Handbook *only mentions annotated bibliographies briefly. As such, the information in this handout is based on basic MLA formatting guidelines and information from section 5.3.1 in the* Handbook*. When you set out to write your annotated bibliography, it is important to keep in mind that not all annotated bibliographies are the same. You should read the assignment criteria carefully and follow your instructor’s directions before constructing your own.*

**What is an Annotated Bibliography?**

A *bibliography* is a list of sources you have compiled on a particular topic. These sources can come from books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc. Bibliographies are also called “works cited” in MLA (or “references” in APA), and they usually include the important publication information (e.g., the author, title, year, publisher, etc.). An *annotation* is a note of explanation or summary. So, when you put the two together, you get an *Annotated Bibliography*: a bibliography that gives a summary of the research that has been done.

**General Guidelines**

* The document should be double-spaced with no extra spacing between lines.
* Margins should be 1-inch.
* Font should be standard, 12pt.
* Citations follow MLA guidelines, utilizing a hanging indent of .5".
* Citations are listed in alphabetical order.
* The annotation follows immediately after the citation without use of a line break.
* The first line of each entry should be flush with the left margin, with each line after indented .5" (including the annotation).

**Annotations**

The annotation is the part of the annotated bibliography that varies most according to professor. In general, you should focus on summarizing the source, though some annotations might include an assessment of the source or a reflection. Some questions to answer might be: *What is the main point of this text? What topics are covered? Is this a credible source? How does it compare with your other sources? Is this source biased or objective? Is this source helpful to you? How does it help shape your argument? What have you learned from this source?*

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| Your NameProfessor JonesEnglish 130112 November 2010Writing Center Pedagogy: An Annotated BibliographyBokser, Julie A. “Pedagogies of Belonging: Listening to Students and Peers.” *The Writing Center Journal* 25.1 (2005): 43-60. Print. This is where I would add a summary or analysis of the source. Your instructor might have specific requirements for the annotation, so be sure to check with him/her. Your annotation might have several sentences summarizing the main point. Elwood, Susan, Susan Wolff-Murphy, and Diana Cardenas. “Enacting Multimedia Writing Center Pedagogy in a Rural High  |

The information for this handout was compiled from the following source:

Modern Language Association. *The MLA Handbook.* 8th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2016. Print.