

WRITING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Getting in the habit of keeping track of your reading will be extremely helpful to you in your independent projects for class, in independent studies, and it will be invaluable in your Division III work. University of Wisconsin, Madison's writing center has a great web guide for writing annotated bibliographies. I include their information in this handout along with their URL so you can see examples. (Also listed as a link on our course website UMWC is at http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/AnnBib_content.html)

There are a number of annotated bibliography forms. The form you use is dependent on how you will use it. For our course, I'd like you to keep track of what you read (and so, the annotations include the bibliographic info), what topics the reading covered (see indicative type), and your evaluation of the reading (see evaluative type). If it is useful to you, you can do some summarizing (informative type), but I would like you NOT to think about this as a summarizing assignment (see description of the informative type below). So, our annotations for class will be of the combination type below.

Types of annotated bibliographies:

All annotated bibliographies begin with the bibliographic information about the text. See APA style manual for appropriate method of writing reference lists in education and psychology.

Visit <http://www.wisc.edu/writetest/Handbook/DocAPA.html> for an online APA style guide

Indicative

This form of annotation defines the scope of the source, lists the significant topics included, and tells what the source is about.

This type is different from the informative entry in that the informative entry gives actual information about its source. In the indicative entry there is no attempt to give actual data such as hypotheses, proofs, etc. Generally, only topics or chapter titles are included.

Informative

Simply put, this form of annotation is a summary of the source.

To write it, begin by writing the thesis; then develop it with the argument or hypothesis, list the proofs, and state the conclusion.

Evaluative

In this form of annotation you need to assess the source's strengths and weaknesses.

You get to say why the source is interesting or helpful to you, or why it is not. In doing this you should list what kind of and how much information is given; in short, evaluate the source's usefulness.

Combination

Most annotated bibliographies are of this type.

They contain a few sentences summarizing or describing content and a few sentences providing an evaluation. Write your ideas about the work and its usefulness to you – how does it fit into the argument you are trying to make, what does it teach you about methodology, what questions does it bring up for you, etc.?