## Intro to Annotated Bibliographies

**East Los Angeles College Library ● www.library.elac.edu**

### What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotation is a brief note. A bibliography is a list of sources that you used throughout your research process cited in a consistent style format such as MLA or APA. An annotated bibliography, then, is a list of cited sources about your research topic that includes notes about each source. The notes may include a summary, an assessment of the source, and/or a reflection on how the source has been or will be useful to your research project.

### What's the point?

Your annotated bibliography should demonstrate to your professor that you've found, evaluated, and begun to analyze appropriate sources for your research project. It can also help you organize your thoughts for your research paper, and the citations will be useful later for building the Works Cited or References page for your final paper.

### What should it look like?

Your annotated bibliography should look like a Works Cited or References page would but with notes about each source underneath its citation. The citations should be arranged alphabetically by the first word of the citation. Follow the formatting guidelines of your citation style. For MLA, for example, you will double space your entire document and use size 12 Times New Roman font. See the back of this handout for an example annotated bibliography using MLA.

### What goes in the annotations?

Annotations typically include summary, assessment, and reflection portions, but requirements may vary. Consult your prompt or ask your professor about their expectations.

- **The summary** will be a concise overview of the source, its main ideas, the authors' hypothesis, and their conclusions. This will be similar to the information you might find in the abstract of a scholarly journal article.
- **An assessment** might include information about the author, publisher, or publication credentials, the currency of the source, its intended audience, any bias you perceived, any questions or criticisms you have about the authors' methodology, and any other ideas you have about why the source is or is not credible.
- **Your reflection** should be about how the source fits into your own research process. This might include, for example, useful information you gained from the source, questions it brought up that impacted your further research, or how you expect to use it in your paper.

### How do I build a citation?

For more information about citing your sources, view our citation guides online, or, for one-on-one help, give us a call or visit a librarian in person at the Research Help Desk.

**MLA Guide:**
http://researchguides.elac.edu/citation/mla

**APA Guide:**
http://researchguides.elac.edu/citation/apa

**Monterey Park Library:**
(323) 415-4134

**South Gate Library:**
(323) 357-6214
### Formatting Tips

- Use 1” margins on all sides.
- Double space your entire document.
- List your citations in alphabetical order using the first word of the citation.
- Don’t forget the hanging indent!
- For more guidance and examples, visit [https://researchguides.elac.edu/Citation/annbib](https://researchguides.elac.edu/Citation/annbib)

### Example MLA Annotated Bibliography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Month Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Working Title of Your Paper: An Annotated Bibliography**

Author’s Last Name, First Name. “Title of Article: Subtitle of Article.” *Title of Scholarly Journal*, vol. #, no. #, Year

Published, pp. First Page-Last Page. *Database*, URL.

Include a summary of the article here, focusing on the main ideas that are relevant to your topic. Your summary should be about 2-4 sentences long. If required, provide an assessment of the source in 1-2 sentences. The assessment will include any significant information you considered when evaluating the credibility of the source, such as author and publisher credentials or date of publication. Finally, include 1-2 sentences of reflection that explain how this source will impact your final research paper.


The author of this scholarly journal article, Dr. Barbara Bell, currently chair of the English Department at Santa Barbara City College, draws comparisons between Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye* and the television series “My So-Called Life,” deeming these two narratives the most authentic representations of teenage life in modern American culture. The article contends that both Holden and Angela have a desire to take on the responsibility of “catching” others and that this quality is more demonstrative of the characters’ true natures than the many contradictions between each protagonist’s words and their own actions. The author’s numerous scholarly citations lend credibility to her argument. This article will be used in my research paper as evidence that Caulfield is more mature, caring, and responsible than he superficially appears.