Annotated Bibliography

An **annotation** is a summary and an evaluation. Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and an evaluation of each of your sources.

* **Summarize**: Summarize the source. What is the main purpose? What are the main points/arguments? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this website/article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.
* **Assess**: After summarizing a source, evaluate it. Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? How do you know? What is the goal of this source?
* **Reflect**: Once you've summarized *and* assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help shape your purpose/argument? How can you use this source in your project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

Each annotated bibliography entry should include two things:

1. Citation (following correct format for the source)
2. Annotation (should be between 100-200 words).

Example Annotated Bib Entry:

↓ Citation

Holland, Suzanne. The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Debate: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy. Boston: MIT Press, 2001. Print.

*Citation text is single-spaced, but always skip a space between the citation and the annotation*

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This is the annotation of the above source, which is formatted according to MLA 2009 (7th ed.) guidelines for the bibliographic information listed above. If one were really writing an annotation for this source, one would offer a brief summary of what this book says about stem cell research.

*Annotation text is single-spaced but always skip a space between paragraphs.*

After a brief summary, it would be appropriate to assess this source and offer some criticisms of it. Does it seem like a reliable and current source? Why? Is the research biased or objective? Are the facts well documented? Who is the author? Is she qualified in this subject? Is this source scholarly, popular, some of both?

After summarizing and assessing, you can now reflect on this source. How does it fit into your research? Is this a helpful resource? Too scholarly? Not scholarly enough? Too general/specific? Since "stem cell research" is a very broad topic, has this source helped you to narrow your topic?

This annotation has 17 sentences and is 154 words. Remember: Annotations should be between 100-200 words

O’Reilly, Bill. “Personal Story”. *O’Reilly Factor\**. 10 December 2003. Newspaper Source. EBSCOHost. Utica High School. 11 April 2005 <http://web23.epnet.com>.

This source is based on the TV show *The O’Reilly Factor.* They are discussing the domestic dispute between singers Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown. It contains both personal and professional opinion. I think that this source is very beneficial for my project because it involves celebrity spousal abuse and the law – two areas I would like to explore in my project. O’Reilly is interviewing the Director of the Violence Institute at Southwestern University who is a professional expert in this field. From this source I could potentially create a talk show of my own, an interview with the Browns, or another interview with this particular director. The article shows me how to format my own talk show script if I choose to create one. Considering my final product idea, this is one of my best sources.

This annotation has 8 sentences and is 131 words.

*Bib entries are alphabetized using the first word in the citation. What’s wrong here? ↓↓↓↓*

Ehrenreich, Barbara. *Nickel and Dimed: On (not) Getting by in America*. New York: Metropolitan, 2001. Print.

In this book of nonfiction based on the journalist's experiential research, Ehrenreich attempts to ascertain whether it is currently possible for an individual to live on a minimum-wage in America. Taking jobs as a waitress, a maid in a cleaning service, and a Walmart sales employee, the author summarizes and reflects on her work, her relationships with fellow workers, and her financial struggles in each situation.

An experienced journalist, Ehrenreich is aware of the limitations of her experiment and the ethical implications of her experiential research tactics and reflects on these issues in the text. The author is forthcoming about her methods and supplements her experiences with scholarly research on her places of employment, the economy, and the rising cost of living in America. Ehrenreich’s project is timely, descriptive, and well-researched.

This annotation has 5 sentences and is 131 words.

\*\*Your annotated bibliography is due by Friday, December 9th.

\*\*Minimum FOUR citations with annotations.