

# MPC English & Study Skills Center

## How do I make an annotated bibliography?

### What is it?

An annotated bibliography lists the sources that you used in your research and allows you to communicate about the usefulness and effectiveness of your sources.

### What features does it have?

An annotated bibliography combines two features:

1. A correctly formatted list of the sources that you used in your research.
  - What “a correctly formatted list” is depends on the type of style guide you are using—MLA, APA, AAA, and ASA all have their own rules for formatting sources.
2. A paragraph that includes a description and evaluation of each of those sources.
  - Usually, your annotation will include a **summary** and an **evaluation**. A **summary** is where you explain what the main points of the source are. An **evaluation** is where you analyze the effectiveness of your source. In it, you might provide answers to the questions: Is this source reliable? Am I convinced by the author’s arguments? How did the author try to convince me of his or her point of view? Is this source useful for other students researching this topic? How will I use this source in my research essay?

### What does it look like?

Here is a selection from an annotated bibliography done according to the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. If your teacher wants a different format, follow that format.

Gerard, Adria. “Reading to Write.” *The ESSC Journal*, edited by Carolyn Lake, Oct. 2013, pp. 1-2. In this article, the author discusses the relationship between being a strong reader and an effective writer. She argues that reading can inspire writers, improve critical thinking skills, and provide models of good writing. This article is persuasive, in part because it is well organized, which helps make it easy to understand. Additionally, the article has many specific details that support her points.