Annotated Bibliography

Key Concept

You selected some good sources for your narrative essay. Now what? Are you ready to begin writing your essay? First, you need to organize the information you found. You want to make sure you answer all of your questions correctly. How can you get organized?

One effective way to organize information is to summarize your sources. You can summarize your sources by writing an annotated bibliography. What is an annotated bibliography? How is it different from a regular bibliography? What can an annotated bibliography do for you?

A regular bibliography is a list of sources on a particular topic. Citing all your sources is always important. An annotated bibliography also includes comments about each source. Writing comments that summarize your sources is an effective way to organize your information.

Look Ahead

Task: Write an annotated bibliography of the sources.

Goal: Explain why you chose the sources for your narrative essay.

You may want to review an example of an annotated bibliography before you begin.

See the example: Annotated Bibliography Example
Vocabulary

Words to Remember
This page gives basic definitions for some important terms that can help you learn about an annotated bibliography. You can get a more complete definition of each term from Fact Monster*.

New Words
Annotate: Add notes or comments to describe and evaluate a source.

Bibliography: A collection of sources relating to a specific topic.

Paraphrase: Restate an author’s ideas using different words.

Plagiarism: Copying or making slight changes in a written or created work and presenting it as a new or original work.

Summarize: Explain the main points and important details of an author’s ideas.

Review Words
Accurate: Careful to provide true information.

Bias: Tendency to favor one particular point of view.

Cite: Refer to a source of information, usually in a formal way.

Credible: A source you can trust to provide true information.

Reliable: Capable of producing accurate results every time.
Exploration

Learning from the Web
First, explore some ways of writing an annotated bibliography. Then, explore some examples of annotated bibliographies. Learn how to annotate the credible sources you have cited for your narrative essay.

While you explore the following Web sites, think about the guiding questions. You may want to take notes to help you answer the questions. If you think of other questions about annotated bibliographies, keep those in mind too.

Guiding Questions

- What kind of information should you include in your annotations?
- What are some ways to write complete, but short, annotations?

Web Sites
Writing an Annotated Bibliography

- Write a Bibliography* from Fact Monster*
- Recording and Organizing Information* from Fact Monster*
- Plagiarism* from Fact Monster*
- Annotated Bibliographies* from the Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab*
- Annotated Bibliographies* from the University of Wisconsin Writing Center*

Examples of Annotated Bibliographies

- Almost a Woman Links and Bibliography* from PBS*
- Internet Guides* from Encyclopedia Britannica’s Guide to Black History*
- Writing* from the Librarians’ Internet Index*
Information

What to Know
This page summarizes some of the information from the Web sites you explored. This information helps you learn what you need to know for this activity about an annotated bibliography. You may want to take notes to help you remember the most important points. You can return to the Web sites for more exploration if you want to learn more.

Citing Sources
When you use a source for your research, you cite the source in a bibliography. Citing all your sources is always important. A bibliography is a list of your sources, usually in alphabetical order by the authors’ last names.

You must cite all your sources, not just those that you quote. You must also cite any sources that you paraphrase or summarize during your research. Otherwise, you have plagiarized the author of the source. Plagiarism is when you fail to cite a source you have quoted, paraphrased, or summarized.

An annotated bibliography is a bibliography that includes some comments about each source. The comments, or annotations, summarize the sources. You may want to write an annotated bibliography for many reasons. What you include in the annotations depends on your purpose.

Most annotations do one or more of the following:

- **Paraphrase** main points and important details. Annotations often include only selected information that relates to the research topic.
- **Evaluate** the credibility, accuracy, and reliability of sources.
- **Reflect** on why sources are chosen and, sometimes, when it would be useful to other researchers.
Task

What to Do
Complete the following task to show what you have learned about an annotated bibliography. While you work through the task, think about whether you are achieving the goal. You may want to review the an example of an annotated bibliography before you begin.

Task: Write an annotated bibliography of the sources.

Goal: Explain why you chose the sources for your narrative essay.

See the example: Annotated Bibliography Example

1. Open the document that cites all the credible sources you have chosen.
2. Save the document with a new filename to indicate that it contains your annotated bibliography.
3. Annotate each source with one complete paragraph that paraphrases the relevant information from the source. You only need to include information related to your interview questions. You may also explain briefly why you chose the Web site and how you decided it was credible source of accurate and reliable information.
4. Review the checklist and revise your annotated bibliography to make sure it is complete.
5. Save your document.
Task Example

Student Name

Date

Annotated Bibliography

**Tsunami – Sri Lanka**


This Web site gives firsthand accounts from people who actually experienced the tsunami in Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004. This site gives information about what happened during the tsunami. This is probably a reliable source because the site is sponsored by the *International Federation of Library Associations*.

**The Deadliest Tsunami in History**


This site describes what happened during the tsunami in Sri Lanka. It has information that can be used for statistics on the number of people killed and the damage that occurred. National Geographic is a reliable company, so I can feel confident that the information will be accurate.

**Earthquake Spawns Tsunami**


http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/shownh.php3?img_id=12643

This Web site explains what a tsunami is and what causes it. The pictures on this site are excellent and can be helpful in visualizing what took place. NASA is a reliable government agency, so the information is most likely accurate.
Tsunami Recovery Program


This site can be helpful in understanding what the survivors did to help in the rescue and recovery efforts. The Red Cross describes what they were able to do to help after the tsunami. The information on the site is probably reliable because the Red Cross is a respected organization.

World


This site has a wealth of information about the tsunami, including, where it happened, some hotels that were involved and how some people survived. It has many first hand accounts. I feel comfortable with the information on this site because CNN is a well known and respected news agency.