

WRITING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Explanation:

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents that you have read on a particular topic, or around a particular theme. Each citation is followed by a brief annotation, which is basically a descriptive and evaluative paragraph. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources you have selected.

Abstracts are the purely descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or online catalogues. But you must not simply copy the abstract. Instead, you should write about the text from the point of view of the topic you are researching for the assignment or the subject you are studying.

A good annotated bibliography:

- proves you have read and understand your sources.
- establishes your work as a valid source and you as a competent researcher.
- shows that you can think critically about the content of the texts you are using, their place within a field of study, and their relation to your own research and ideas.

Elements of an annotated bibliography:

1. Organise the reference for each annotation according to the Harvard author/date referencing style.
2. Explain the main points and/or purpose of the text.
3. If relevant, evaluate the authority or qualifications of the author or source
4. Identify the point of view or perspective from which the work was written. For instance, you may note whether the author seemed to have particular biases or was trying to reach a particular audience.
5. Discuss an interesting idea, quote, argument or example given in the text.
6. Comment on the worth, effectiveness, and usefulness of the text in terms of both the topic being researched and/or your own research project.

Learning activity:

Writing critically: rhetorical functions in academic writing

<http://www.uefap.com/writing/exercise/function/crit.htm>

The review contains both positive and negative comments on a book. Look at the 10 paragraphs and decide whether or not they are positive or negative. Mark the parts of the text which give you this information

Other resources:

Writing an annotated bibliography

Academic Skills and Learning Center, Australian National University

<https://academicskills.anu.edu.au/resources/handouts/writing-annotated-bibliography>

Checklist for the annotated bibliography

Language and Learning Online, Monash University

<http://www.monash.edu.au/lls/llonline/writing/science/10.1.xml>

Writing an annotated bibliography

University of Toronto

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/annotated-bibliography>

