

AP Government & Politics
Mr. Busch
2011 – 2012 Summer Reading
Annotated Bibliographies

From Purdue OWL: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/owlprint/614/>
Drew University On-Line Resources for Writers - <http://users.drew.edu/~sjamieso/Synthesis.html>

Introduction:

A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. An **annotation** is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary of each of the sources. An example of an annotated bibliography is provided on the following pages. A **synthesis** involves combining two or more summaries, drawing together particular themes or traits that you observe in those texts and organizing the material from each text according to those themes or traits.

Procedure:

1. Choose a topic related to United States or world government and/or politics. For example: same-sex marriage, global warming, Congressional term limits, Darfur, etc.
2. Find five sources relating to your topic. Make sure your sources are **scholarly** – NO Wikipedia, blogs, or other questionable sources. If you do not know if the source is questionable, please ask.
3. READ THE ARTICLE
4. Cite the article.
5. Write a single-spaced, one-paragraph summary for each article.
6. After you have written summaries for your three articles, write a 2 page synthesis on the three articles. Your synthesis not only accomplishes what is stated above in the introduction, but it will also need to include your own ideas, thoughts, theory, etc.
The key features of a synthesis are:
 - a. It accurately reports information from the sources using different phrases and sentences
 - b. It is organized in such a way that readers can immediately see where the information from the sources overlap
 - c. It makes sense of the sources and helps the reader understand them in greater depth.
7. Please do not turn in the article.
8. Plagiarism is not allowed. Please see the Pennridge High School Code of Conduct for more details. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be given a zero for the assignment, referred to the appropriate administrator, and required to complete the assignment for no credit.
9. Grading – This assignment will be worth 100 points.
 - One point will be deducted for every spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. error
 - 10 points for each annotated bibliography – this includes the selection of a scholarly source, the proper citation of the source, and a thorough summary of the source
 - 50 points for the synthesis which includes your thoughts, ideas, and theories integrated into the key features of a synthesis
10. This assignment is due the first day of school. A 10% reduction in grade will take place for every day it is turned in late.

Annotated Bibliography Example

Elizabeth Thompson

Professor Stacks

English 102

20 August 2001

Stem Cell Research: An Annotated Bibliography

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

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 I were really writing an annotation for this source, I would offer a brief summary of what this book says about stem cell research.

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?

The length of your annotation will depend on the assignment or on the purpose of your annotated bibliography. 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?

Senior, K. "Extending the Ethical Boundaries of Stem Cell Research." *Trends in Molecular Medicine* 7 (2001): 5-6. Print.

Not all annotations have to be the same length. For example, this source is a very short scholarly article. It may only take a sentence or two to summarize. Even if you are using a book, you should only focus on the sections that relate to your topic.

Not all annotated bibliographies assess and reflect; some merely summarize. That may not be the most helpful for you, but, if this is an assignment, you should always ask your instructor for specific guidelines.

Wallace, Kelly. "Bush Stands Pat on Stem Cell Policy." *CNN*. 13 August 2001. 17 August 2001. Television.

Notice that in this example, I chose a variety of sources: a book, a scholarly journal, and a web page. Using a variety of sources can help give you a broader picture of what is being said about your topic. You may want to investigate how scholarly sources are treating this topic differently than more popular sources. But again, if your assignment is to only use scholarly sources, then you will probably want to avoid magazines and popular web sites.

Notice that the bibliographic information above is proper MLA format (use whatever style is appropriate in your field) and the annotations are in paragraph form. Note also that the entries are alphabetized by the first word in the bibliographic entry. If you are writing an annotated bibliography with many sources, it may be helpful to divide the sources into categories. For example, if I were putting together an extensive annotated bibliography for stem cell research, I might divide the sources into categories such as ethical concerns, scholarly analyses, and political ramifications.

For more examples, a quick search at a library or even on the Internet should produce several examples of annotated bibliographies in your area.