



Annotated Bibliography

What does annotated mean?

Everybody knows what a *bibliography* is—a list of materials you have researched that includes pertinent publication information.

An *annotated bibliography* contains more information about the source. Generally, an annotation includes a summary, an evaluation, and an assessment of usefulness.

Make sure you check with your professor for his or her specific requirements about what to include in your annotation.

Example of Annotated Bibliography Entry

Author's last name, first name. *Title*. Place of publication: Name of publisher, Date.

This is where you summarize the article, book, website, etc. Your summary should be clear and concise. Write this summary as if your audience had never seen or read the piece. Make sure you include key points of the text.

This paragraph should contain your evaluation of the text. Did the author do a good job? Was it well-written? Well-researched? Is the source credible? How does this piece compare to other pieces on the same subject?

Next you assess the usefulness of this text for your paper or project. In what ways does this text back up your argument? Does it challenge your argument? Will you prove this piece wrong? Does the text provide historical context for your paper? Does this text point you in another direction in your research? Does it introduce new authors or articles you should examine for your research?

Remember

- **Bibliographic entry:** Use the citation style your professor requires. List entries in alphabetic order.
- **Summarize** article, book, website, or whatever you are using as a source.
- **Analyze** article, book, website, or whatever you are using as a source.
- **Assess** the article's, book's, or website's usefulness for your paper or project.

APA Style

(2004, August). Police Suspected Peterson Conspiracy. *CNN Law Center*. Retrieved August 26, 2004, from <<http://www.cnn.com/2004/LAW/08/26/peterson.witness.ap/index.html>>

This article concerns the trial of Scott Peterson, who is accused of murdering his wife and unborn son. The prosecution's key witness is Amber Frey, who until Feb. 2003, was Peterson's mistress. When Frey found out that Peterson was married and that his wife was missing, she offered to record her messages for the police so that they may obtain more evidence on Peterson. Geragos, Peterson's defense attorney, is trying to discredit Frey and her testimony, by attempting to create an ulterior motive. Their new tactic is to suggest that there is more than one murderer to be charged.

I believe the author did a very good job of expressing the views of the defense and prosecution. This article was well written, but I did notice that the writer seemed to focus on making Geragos an aggressive man, perhaps that he is so aggressive that he could lose his client's case simply because he does not think about his line of questions; he does not try to find the holes in the witnesses' testimonies, he simply tries to slip them up.

I believe this article will be very useful for my paper concerning spousal abuse and murder. While it does not pertain directly to my topic, it points out various ways that the accused (and guilty) can get away with abuse or murder, if he or she has the proper lawyers who know the proper questions. I am going to be following the Peterson trial closely and the Hacking investigation as well.

MLA Style

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. London: Penguin Books Ltd, 1985.

Robinson Crusoe tells the journey of an English man who, despite his father's warnings, goes off to live the life of a sailor. Crusoe has an unlimited amount of bad luck, the worst being that he is ship wrecked on an uninhabited island for twenty-eight years. He learns to survive in the wilderness and is eventually rescued and brought back safely to England. Upon his return, he learns that his mother and brother have died and that he has two sisters. He continues to sail and returns to the island that was his home for so long, one last time.

I believe this is an excellent piece of literature. Defoe has a way of becoming the character so completely that it is impossible to tell the difference between character and author. I enjoyed reading this along side Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* and seeing the different methods both authors used to write their works.

I believe this will be an excellent work to use in my comparison of Swift and Defoe. This novel demonstrates the different writing styles Defoe and Swift had, even though they were contemporaries. It has also encouraged me to look for more of Defoe's work and see what the differences are there.