

# CREATING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Like a works cited page, an annotated bibliography consists of entries that provide bibliographic information for sources used in an essay; where it differs is in what is added to each entry: an annotation, or brief description of each source's content and evaluation of its usefulness. An annotated bibliography can serve as a guide of sorts for other writers doing research on the same or similar subjects, providing useful information to help them decide what sources they might use, and how they might use them. It can also be very helpful to you as a writer, fostering a greater understanding of the content of your sources, leading to a stronger sense of how to incorporate them into your essay.

Each annotated bibliography entry has two basic components: **1)** the source's bibliographic information (just as in a works cited entry) and **2)** an annotation, which can be further broken down into sections of **2a)** description/summary and **2b)** evaluation:

**1) Bibliographic Information:** This part is the same as in a works cited page (see the MLA Handbook for information on how to cite sources).

**2) Annotation** (approximately 4-7 sentences)\*:

**2a) Description/Summary** (approximately 2-4 sentences): This section typically includes the source's main points, intended audience, and purpose, answering such questions as: What is the author doing (informing, exploring a particular topic, making a specific argument, providing reference material, etc.) and how is he/she doing it (through extensive examples, with case studies, by relying on personal anecdotes)? Who is the intended audience? What are the main points the author is trying to get across? [The answer to this question will often require two or more sentences.]

**2b) Evaluation** (approximately 2-3 sentences): This section includes determinations you make about the source, potentially including observations about any biases or limitations (does it focus too much on one aspect while ignoring others?), effectiveness (does it do what it sets out to/claims to do? Is it well-written/clearly argued/fully supported?), value (how will this source help in writing your essay? What does it have to offer?), and its relation to similar sources (especially others in the annotated bibliography).

**Format:** The annotated bibliography must have a title, centered at the top of the page, in the following format: Annotated Bibliography: [topic]

Double-space each entry, with two double spaces between each entry

See the reverse for a sample annotated bibliography containing two entries.

\*Expectations regarding the length of annotations may vary slightly, so check with your instructor if you are uncertain about this aspect of your annotated bibliography

## Annotated Bibliography: Gender Roles

Fanmere, Ronald. "The Resurrection of Masculinity." *American Journal of Health and Sexuality* 13.2 (2009): 47-69. Fanmere describes what he refers to as the "resurrection of masculinity," a renewed interest in instilling traditionally masculine characteristics in young boys in the United States. According to Fanmere, this movement began in the late 90's in response to concerns about what was perceived as an increasing feminization of young males. He relies largely on anecdotal evidence in order to establish the existence of this movement. In addition, he argues that a similar trend is currently occurring among primates in U. S. zoos. Although Fanmere gives a thorough and convincing account of the "resurrection of masculinity," he offers no explanations for the rise of this phenomenon. However, this article will provide substantial support for my description of the value placed on male assertiveness in our society.

Tambor, Shira, ed. *Siren Song: Women in Music, 1940-2010*. New York: Robbens Publishing, 2011. This encyclopedia provides extensive entries on the most significant and influential female musicians of the last seventy years, over one hundred in all. From Ella Fitzgerald to Lady Gaga, the various contributors delve into the women's careers, personal lives, and influence, with an eye specifically toward their unique contributions as female artists. Although this book is focused on female musicians, it will help me delineate society's often ambivalent attitude toward successful women, supplementing the exploration of masculinity provided by Fanmere's article.