

Creating an annotated bibliographic entry: guidelines and sample

What is it?

A bibliography is a standardized list of sources and citations on a given topic usually found at the end of scholarly articles, books or research papers.

Annotated bibliographies provide citations as well as concise summaries about each of the information sources you consulted.

Each summary informs the reader of the relevance, authority, accuracy, and quality of the resource.

ANNOTATION GUIDELINES: Use ALL 6 steps in writing your annotation:

1. Describe the main ideas of the work and whether those ideas are expressed clearly.
2. Authority: list the author's or team's credentials; include their background and education, other published works or research studies and where they currently teach or work. Look up the author in Google if the credentials aren't listed. (No author listed? Maybe choose another source that has an authority you can verify.) Does the work include a list of references/sources?
Authors who use current resources for THEIR research show a familiarity with their fellow scholars in that field.
3. Accuracy: What evidence is provided that assures you the information is accurate? Are there statistics, trials or studies cited, illustrations, graphs or other kinds of analysis? Are there references listed to show the sources used for the article? How do references help establish accuracy also?
Is the information current and is currency important to your topic of research?
4. Explain how the information is relevant to your topic.
5. Describe the intended audience: scholarly, general, expert, for example.
6. Describe any additional, relevant material the source includes and how these add to your knowledge: reports or studies mentioned, organizations or websites listed, for example.

ALERT! Avoid plagiarism: using another person's ideas, and/or copying and pasting someone else's words and phrases into your assignment as your own: this is a serious offense!

See Student Academic Honesty Policy [CLICK HERE.](#)

Here is a Sample Annotated Bibliography entry of an article from a specialized online reference work that addresses all 6 guidelines in depth.

Kraybill, Donald B. "Amish." *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*. Ed. Jeffrey Lehman. 2nd ed. Vol. 1. Detroit: Gale, 2000. 79-94. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 17 June 2013.

This article, written by Donald B. Kraybill, covers the history, the existing communities, cultural mores, habits and other issues pertinent to the Amish people living in the United States. Dr. Kraybill is the Distinguished College Professor and Senior Fellow, Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies Joint appt., Sociology and Religious Studies departments at Elizabethtown College. Dr. Kraybill is also the series editor of Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies published by the Johns Hopkins University Press. He has authored numerous works on this topic, and received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for research in this area of study. Based on these credentials of the author, the information is authoritative. The broad scope of coverage for each section gives insight into various practices of this group. The article is intended as an overview for a general audience, but provides additional sources that establish accuracy and can lead to more in-depth research. Dr. Kraybill includes lists of Amish publications, associations and organizations. There are additional links to related references available within the Gale database as well. The overall content of this article covers key aspects of the Amish philosophy and lifestyle, essential to any understanding of this topic. The experience and education of the author make this a reliable resource and the added resources will provide a broader perspective.

[Source citation using MLA 7th Edition]

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