An annotated bibliography is a list of sources that summarizes and explains the relevance of each source to your research. Use it at the beginning of the research process.

- Record, summarize, and evaluate the sources you have found.
- Analyze the usefulness of sources.
- Reflect on the possible uses of sources.
- Begin to develop a thesis or argument.

### Parts of an Annotation

1. MLA Citation
2. Summary of the source
3. Evaluation of the source
4. Possible use of the source in your research

*Annotations are descriptive and critical;* they expose the author’s point of view, clarity, and authority. They may include:

- Main focus or purpose of the work
- Intended audience for the work
- Usefulness or relevance to your research topic
- Special features of the work that were unique or helpful
- Background and credibility of the author
- Conclusions or observations reached by the author
- Your conclusions or observations

### Formatting (Always follow your instructor’s guidelines. These are general rules.)

1. Title the list: Annotated Bibliography.
2. Begin with a correctly formatted citation, as it would appear on the Works Cited page.
3. In paragraph form, write the annotation. They are usually brief, about 2 to 6 sentences, but this will depend on the assignment.
4. Use double space.
5. Begin the annotation on the line after the citation. Indent each paragraph.

### More Information

- NWACC’s MLA Style Quick Guide: [guides.nwacc.edu/mla](https://guides.nwacc.edu/mla)
- [style.mla.org/annotated-bibliographies/](https://style.mla.org/annotated-bibliographies/)
- [Annotated Bibliography Tutorial from Instruct](https://library.nwacc.edu/instruct)
- [owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/index.html)
Sample Annotated Bibliography


Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic.

In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun. Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach.

Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.

Source

Purdue University. “Annotated Bibliography Samples.” *Purdue Online Writing Lab*, owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/annotated_bibliography_samples.html.