

## **Creating an Annotated Bibliography (APA Style)**

### **What is an Annotated Bibliography?**

An annotated bibliography is a reference list of research sources on a related topic. Each source that is cited in APA style is followed by a brief, descriptive paragraph called an annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to critically evaluate the relevance, accuracy and quality of the source you have used to do your research.

### **How to Prepare to Write an Annotated Bibliography:**

- Locate academic sources such as books, journal articles, newspaper/magazine articles, and internet articles that contain useful information on your topic.
- Critically examine each source. Only Internet articles taken from credible, academic sources (publications from recognized organizations) can be used. You cannot use Wikipedia or “Ask” sites as appropriate websites. If in doubt, ask me!
- Select only useful sources that provide a variety of views on your topic and that are from a variety of sources. You will need a **minimum of 6 sources, from three different types!**
- Create an APA style reference entry (citation) for each item.

### **How Will I Write the Annotations?**

- Immediately below the reference entry, write a concise paragraph that summarizes the source and it should include:
  - What the source is and where you found it
  - A summary of the main points or ideas found in the source
  - An evaluation of the authority, credibility or background of the author/organization (use the C.R.A.A.P test handout provided in class to help you)
  - Your own statement evaluating the quality of the item and how useful it is to your own research topic

**\*Note:** If you only used a few pages from a source the annotation should deal only with those pages/content used.

### **How Will the Annotated Bibliography Look Like?**

- There should be a title, centred at the top: Annotated Bibliography
- You will clearly state your research focus in a short paragraph before listing your sources.
- The citations for your sources will follow and should be listed in alphabetical order.
- The citations follow the rules for APA style reference entries for the different types of sources used.
- Indent two spaces from the last line of each citation to write your annotation paragraph for each source.

*For example see the back...*

Remember to include:

Research Paper Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sample APA Annotated Bibliography

Okely, A. (2007). Evidence-guided approaches to addressing child obesity: What approaches can dietitians use in their everyday practice? *Nutrition and Dietetics*, 64, 140-141.

Retrieved May 7, 2009, from Academic Search Premier database.

In this article, Anthony Okely describes the health consequences of childhood obesity and discusses several programs aimed at helping prevent unhealthy weight gain in children. He sees parents as the primary source of power over a child's unhealthy weight gain. This article is an editorial in a peer-reviewed journal. Although this article is an editorial, it is still a good source of research-based information, as the author uses 16 detailed references from several countries. The author is a credible source because he has a Doctorate in Education and serves as the Director of the Child Obesity Research Centre at Australia's University of Wollongong; he is also a Senior Lecturer at the same university. The number of references he provides in the article also boosts the credibility of the opinions he offers. This article will be used in the research paper for its basic statistics on childhood obesity. Also, the reference list at the end of the article is a valuable source of credible articles on this topic. The fact that the article is from Australia limits its effectiveness as a major source for the paper (Okely, 2007).

### **RUBRIC: Annotated Bibliography for 6 Sources**

Criteria	1-	1	1+	2-	2	2+	3-	3	3+	4-	4	4+
<b><u>Thinking &amp; Inquiry</u></b> - Includes <b>research focus</b> that shows critical thinking and improvement from initial proposal - Annotated Bibliography includes <b>minimum 6 different sources of 3 various types</b> - <b>Sources selected show relevance</b> to research topic and usefulness	Limited level of expectations met.			Working towards the expectations.			Meets the expectations.			Surpasses the expectations.		
<b><u>Communication</u></b> - <b>Language skills</b> are effective re: spelling, sentence structure, grammar - <b>Annotations</b> are effectively summarized, evaluated and explicitly connect to your research topic - <b>APA style formatting</b> is used correctly throughout	Limited level of expectations met.			Working towards the expectations.			Meets the expectations.			Surpasses the expectations.		

Overall Level = \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ /10

Comments: