**What’s an Annotated Bibliography?**  
  
A **bibliography** is a list of sources (books, journals, Web sites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "References" (APA) or "Works Cited" (MLA) depending on the style format you are using. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographic information (i.e., the author, title, publisher, etc.).

An **annotation**is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an **annotated bibliography** includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Depending on your project or the assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following.

* **Summarize**: Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.  
   1. Identify the main point for each section.  
   - Usually the main point is in the beginning of the section.  
   2. Organize main points into a paragraph.  
   3. ALWAYS INCLUDE THE ARTICLE/BOOK TITLE in the first sentence of your summary.
* **Assess**: After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?  
   1. Is it useful? Explain how….  
   2. Is it reliable?   
   - When was it published?  
   - Where was it published?  
   - Are there universities, research centers, organizations mentioned?  
   - Are there statistics, data, and research included?  
   - Who is quoted? Professors, researchers, prominent well-known people?

Explain.

* **Reflect**: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?  
    
    
  **MLA Citation for a magazine or newspaper article:**  
   Author(s). "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Day Month Year: pages. Medium of   
   publication.  
    
  Example:  
   Poniewozik, James. "TV Makes a Too-Close Call." Time 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71. Print.

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