

# Annotated Bibliographies

--as part of your research project--

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## Q: Why do I do this to my students?

*A: It helps "move" them through larger research projects. It helps them get a head start on gathering resources. It helps them to pace a project so that it isn't written overnight the night before the due date. It helps with time management. It gives them practice in a new genre.*

*Being able to find and list sources for any project is beneficial---not just for a college course, but for a boss in the workplace as well. These are just some of my reasons :)*

*One more: It's an easy 100 points.*

## GETTING STARTED:

1. [Here's a how-to guide.](#) Read it.
2. [Here's another.](#) I like the first one better, but whichever one works for you.

Here's a sample bib. [https://www.msu.edu/~webbsuza/bibliography WEBB.pdf](https://www.msu.edu/~webbsuza/bibliography_WEBB.pdf)

This one does SOME of the things in the guide, not all of them. But, we all must make decisions as to how our annotated bibs work best for us and our research.

You'll see some guides say one thing, others something else. What's important is that you get 10 sources and the bibliographic information (citation) for those sources and that you get a quote from those sources and you synthesize what that sources says to you and your research. All of this is about a paragraph per entry.

Read through the guides. Do what's BEST for YOUR research! Use samples as models, and tweak them according to your project.

HINT: for more information, search Google for "annotated bibliography".

I find it very helpful to write an introductory paragraph at the beginning of an annotated bib. A quick paragraph describing the project helps to guide the reader. HINT: You may be able to use your proposal with very little editing.

## 3. HOW TO FIND SOURCES

Figure out a list of **KEYWORDS**. These are words that are key to your research topic.

You probably only need 5 or so so that your topic isn't too big for 6 pages.

Use your [library databases](#) and [scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com) and search for your key words.

Try using + and the word “and” and the word “or” – These are called Boolean operators and they help you to limit your search results.

Here’s an overview of [Google advanced searches](#). (Optional, but advised).

Try using the ADVANCED SEARCH FUNCTIONS in both the databases and in Google.

### **RUBRIC**

- Your annotated bib must have at least 10 Entries
- Each entry is 1-2 paragraphs (no more than two).  
Some of these sources may not actually appear in your paper!  
Use the guides and sample above as models
- Each entry should have a complete bibliographical entry (author, title, publication, year, pages, web or print, date accessed).

You can arrange your bib alphabetically, or include subheads and organize by subject (keyword) and then alphabetically within those categories. However best helps you best organize for your papers.

### **REMEMBERING ... WHY ANNOTATED BIBS?**

This step helps you to gather your research materials. *This could be up to 1/3 of your paper.* It helps you get your head around your topic. It’s quotes and paraphrases and citations that you need. It’s really quite a lot of your research.

### **SAMPLES & OTHER RESOURCES**

[OWL @ PURDUE on Annotated Bibliographies](#)

[THE PROCESS OF Annotated Bibs \(Cornell U\)](#)

[Samples \(Images\)](#) (no 2 look alike!!!)

[Guide / Styles / Sample Annotations from CalPoly](#)