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## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

### WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of reference materials (books, articles, and other documents) that a writer plans to use in a research project.

Each citation includes a brief (100 - 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph. This description is called the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform readers of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

### WRITING AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Creating an effective annotated bibliography requires the application of three intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

**Step 1** - Locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic

**Step 2** - Examine and review the actual items

**Step 3** - Choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic

**Step 4** - Build a citation for each source document using the appropriate style (MLA, APA, etc.)

**Step 5** - Write a concise annotation that summarizes the scope of each source

- Include one or more sentences that:
  - evaluate the authority or background of the author
  - comment on the intended audience
  - compare or contrast this work with another you have cited
  - explain how this work illuminates your research topic

**Step 6** – Compile all citations and annotations into one document

- List the sources in the order prescribed by your citation format
  - MLA and APA will require alphabetical order
  - IEEE and others will require order of appearance

**Step 7** – Format your bibliography

Schedule your online or in-person tutoring appointment today! (734) 432-5304 or [writingcenter@madonna.edu](mailto:writingcenter@madonna.edu)  
Additional online resources can be found at [www.madonna.edu/owl](http://www.madonna.edu/owl)

- Unlike other parts of an academic essay, the annotated bibliography is usually single-spaced (see the sample below)

## SAMPLE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRIES?

**This example uses APA style (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th edition, 2019) for the journal citation:**

Waite, L. J., Goldschneider, F. K., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review*, 51(4), 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.

**This example uses MLA style (MLA Handbook, 8th edition, 2016) for the journal citation:**

Waite, Linda J., et al. "Nonfamily Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 51, no. 4, 1986, pp. 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.