

How to create an Annotated Bibliography



Lesson objectives



- Understand **what an annotated bibliography is** and how it differs to other forms of writing
- Understand **why** you have been asked to do an annotated bibliography
- Understand the **different sections** of an annotation
- Feel **confident and ready** to start your annotated bibliography

Organising references and research notes

A bibliography is a list of all of the material that someone read while doing some research or an assignment

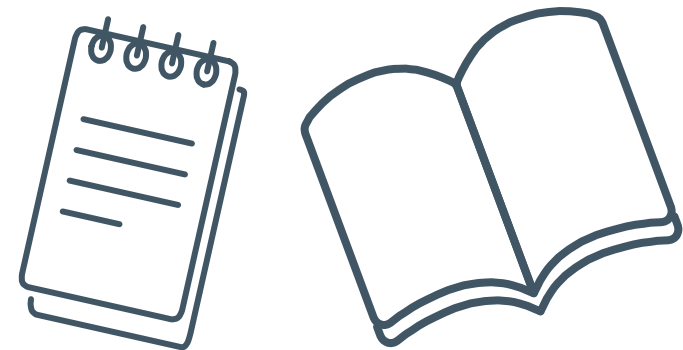
A reference list is a list of only those references that were **cited** within an article/essay.



Organising references and research notes

Common questions

1. *Will everything you read be cited in your assignment?*
2. *How do you currently decide which papers will be cited in your assignment?*
3. *How do you decide whether any papers will be left out of your assignment?*
4. *How do you currently organise your notes when reading papers?*



What is an annotated bibliography?

- ✓ An annotated bibliography is a **systematic summary** of a group of sources that are about a similar topic.
- ✓ Each **annotation** is a **paragraph that summarises and evaluates** the information from **one** of the sources.
- ✓ This information helps the researcher to evaluate the **strengths and limitations** of the source and to decide if it is **relevant** to their research (or to their assignment).
- ✓ The annotated bibliography is a collection of **multiple annotations**.

How does this differ from an essay?

- A essay at university is an **extended piece of writing** which presents an **argument based on current research**.
- Essays require the ability to show **relationships between concepts** and from material gathered from a **range of different sources**.
- Essays have a **specific structure**.

What's the difference?

Annotated bibliography	Essay
<p>Information gathering & evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a standard structure • Each annotation summarises just one journal article • Can sometimes use first person • Summaries will include focus of paper, main findings or argument • Evaluate strengths, weaknesses and relevance • Usually forms the <u>starting point</u> for a more in-depth assignment 	<p>Information synthesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a standard structure • Multiple sources are cited throughout the essay, and sometimes many at a time • Usually needs to be in third person • Has a central argument • Incorporates critical analysis from annotated bibliography • <u>Created after annotated bibliography complete</u>

Why have you been asked to do an Annotated Bibliography?

- The purpose is to **teach you** to research carefully and systematically, and to find a way to logically arrange your notes.
- Creating an annotated bibliography should become an **automatic step** in completing your assignments, even if it is not going to be submitted every time.

What are the sections of an Annotated Bibliography?

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Annotation 1

Paragraph

Annotation 2

Paragraph

Annotation 3

Paragraph

Source citation in full reference style

Summary of the source

Your evaluation of the source

What are the sections of an Annotated Bibliography?

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Annotation 1

Paragraph

Annotation 2

Paragraph

Annotation 3

Paragraph

Source citation in full reference style

Summary of the source

- Description of main idea/purpose/argument
- Summarise content & key points
- Overall findings
- Methodology/design of research

Your evaluation of the source

- What are the strengths?
- Any issues, failings, limitations?
- Overall significance to the field of study?
- Overall relevance to your research?

Annotation example: What predicts student success?

Sample annotation

Yeager, D. S., & Dweck, C. S. (2012). Mindsets that promote resilience: When students believe that personal characteristics can be developed. *Educational Psychologist*, 47(4), 302-314.
doi: 10.1080/00461520.2012.722805

This review paper summarises the link between student mindsets and student success. The paper outlines that students who believe that intelligence can develop with time and effort, that is, students with 'growth mindsets', tend to obtain higher academic grades than students with 'fixed mindsets' – those who think that intelligence cannot change. This article contains an extensive review of the literature on this topic. It shows that the research findings are consistent across many studies, and at different educational levels (among students at high school and among students at university). The only limitation is that this article is a review article, so it does not offer any new data or examples that provide additional support for its findings. However, it will be an incredibly important article for my research because it contains an extensive literature review that spans the past 30 years, and therefore consolidates much of the research to date in this field. **[148 words]**

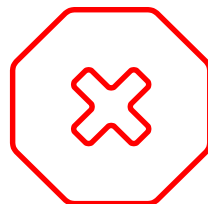
Formatting an Annotated Bibliography

- ✓ Arrange annotations in **alphabetical order**, by first authors' surnames
- ✓ Keep annotations **brief and concise**
- ✓ Write in full sentences and in **academic writing style**



Things you should NOT do

- ✘ **Do not** include **citations to other sources** within one of the annotations. Each annotation focusses on just that single source.
- ✘ **Do not** give a **complete summary** of the article – that is an abstract. Give a brief overview and then incorporate your own commentary.
- ✘ **Do not** write in **note form**, or with an **informal writing** style.



Questions to ask on your studydesk forum or in tutorials



- What kinds of **sources** should you be looking for? **How many**?
- Does each annotation need to be written as one **paragraph**?
- Has the **word length** been specified for each annotation?
- Is there a **penalty** for being under or over the word limit?
- Is the **citation** at the top included in the word limit?
- Can I use **first person**, especially when evaluating the source? (*"I think ..."*), (*"... my research"*)
- Do you need to write a **summary paragraph or conclusion** at the end that synthesises and consolidates the key points and overall implications of the annotations?

Selecting sources

1. What **kinds of sources** do I need to focus on?
2. Are my sources **reputable** and of **high quality**?
3. What is the **topic or subject** I am investigating?
4. Do I have a **specific question** to answer?



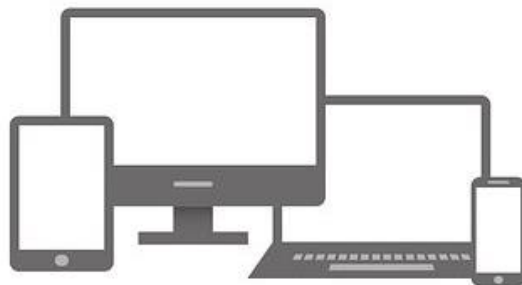
What about Google/websites?

Is the website reputable?

- ✓ *Australian Government, University website, reputable organisation*

Does the website carry any advertising?

- ✗ *The top search results in Google are often paid ads*



Things to consider when evaluating sources

- Is the work current?
- Is there any bias?
- Is the author credible? What are their credentials?
- Is the interpretation of findings correct?
- Are there any limitations of the study?
- Never plagiarise

