

# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The purpose of this handout is to explain the purpose of an annotated bibliography, distinguish it from a summary, and to provide you with a template for formulating the annotations for your research project.

## Annotations vs. Summaries<sup>1</sup>

- **Summarize:** What are the main ideas of the article? What is the research question? What are the hypotheses? How does the author test the hypothesis (data and methods)? What are the main findings?
- **Assess:** How do the findings compare to the findings of other research related to your topic? Is it useful for helping to explain your topic of interest? How compelling are the findings?
- **Reflect:** How does this fit into your research project? What influence does this article have on your hypothesis and how can you use the information (e.g. literature review, data/methods, etc.).

## Why Annotations?

- **Learn more about your topic:** Learn more about a topic you are interested in and familiarize yourself with previous research related to your area of interest.
- **Critically evaluate sources:** Actively evaluating data sources, methods, theories, and assumptions within the article instead of passively collecting information .
- **Situating your research in within various contexts:** Are there exceptions to the underlying theory? How does context affect the results you expect?

## Annotation Expectations

Requirements often differ between courses, but for this course the expectations are as follows:

- **Reference Citation:** The full citation should be placed at the top of the annotation
- **Word Count:** Between 125-200 words
- **Content:** Research question, data and methods (evidence), main findings, situate the article in the broader literature
- **Template:** Use the template on the back to structure your annotations, but remember, your submitted annotations should be in paragraph form. See my example on the rubric for the research project.

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1. Some of this information has been taken from: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

## Template for Annotations

**Citation:** Write out the full citation of your article (using APSA, APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.)

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**Research Question:** What is the primary research question of the article?

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**Evidence:** What data and methods did they use to answer the research question? This includes data sources, qualitative vs. quantitative, large-*N* vs. case studies, etc.

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**Findings:** What did the author(s) find/what were the conclusions?

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**Comparison:** How do these findings compare to those of other researchers? Compare to at least two other articles (give in-text citation for those articles).

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**Reflect:** How do these findings affect what you thought about the topic? Are the conclusions compelling? How does this affect your hypothesis or expectations? These notes will help you with your abstract!

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