

Creating an Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography contains both the MLA citation information and a few sentences of your own, describing the source and what you found in it. Here are some tips for putting together the description.

Summarizing

- What type of document is the source?
- What specific information, details, and/or points of view does the source provide?
- What are the subject, audience, and/or purpose of the source?
- What does the source directly tell us?

Author

- Who created the source?
- What do you know about the author?
- What is the author's point of view?

Place and Time

- Where and when was the source produced?
- How might this affect the meaning of the source?

Prior Knowledge

- Beyond information about the author and the context of its creation, what do you know that would help you further understand the primary source?

Audience

- For whom was the source created and how might this affect the reliability of the source?

Reason

- Why was this source produced at the time it was produced?

Significance

- Why is this source important?
- What inferences can you draw from this document?
- Ask yourself, "So What?" in relation to the question asked.

Corroboration

- What similarities and differences exist among the sources?
- What factors could account for the similarities and differences?
- What gaps appear to exist that hinder the final interpretation of the source?

Citing

- What parts of this source would you use as evidence to support or refute your interpretation?
- How would you let your audience know that you took this passage from the source?

