Creating an Annotated Bibliography

(MLA Format Can Be Adapted to Other Formats)

1. To create an annotated bibliography, set up your format in the same way as for a works-cited list (MLA format), references list (APA format), literature-cited list (CSE format), or bibliography (CMS, Chicago Format).

2. Title the list *Annotated Bibliography* (no italics, underlining, quotation marks, or bold print unless required in the documentation style you are using).

3. Cite all of your sources in alphabetical order according to the documentation style for your paper.

4. Directly below each source, indented half an inch beyond the hanging indent, type one or two sentences **or** fragments (but be consistent throughout the paper) of summary and/or evaluation of the source. Some instructors require other specifications such as more content in the annotations, explanation of how the source relates to your research, or complete sentences only. See the examples in MLA style below: the first illustrates an annotation in sentences; the second, in a fragment. (Do not write the words *sentences* or *fragment* after your entries; these words are for illustration purposes only.)

Annotated Bibliography

Bean, John C. *Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*. Jossey-Bass, 2001.

> This delightfully thorough book includes practical ideas for instructors across the curriculum, provides tips for creating assignments and evaluating papers, and analyzes ways to engage students in the learning process. Bean addresses both informal and formal writing. [sentences]

MLA Handbook. 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

> A newly formatted guide to MLA documentation and style for research papers using the container concept. [fragment]