

What is an Annotated Bibliography? A 'How-To' Sheet

For your Civilizations Project you are being asked to do an annotated bibliography. Some of you may have done one in English class and some may never have done one before. So what exactly is an annotated bibliography?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

* A list of citations. Information sources (books, articles, documents, websites, audio, video)

ANNOTATION

* A brief (often about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph. The purpose of which is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

Explanation: An annotated bibliography summarizes the central theme and scope of each source in the list. Each annotation should include:

- **Citation-** a complete citation for each work included
- **Summary-** a sentence or two summarizing the author's main point
- **Evaluation-**
 - A) a statement about the type of source (ie: scholarly research article, an editorial from a magazine, a feature newspaper article, a chapter from a book, or a website)
 - B) a short evaluation of the authority of the author to write about the topic, quality of the source, objectivity, etc
- **Your Own Notes-** your own thoughts on why this is relevant for you in the context of your research and how you will use this source.

Annotations are descriptive and critical. They expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression, and authority. They are not abstracts that are purely descriptive.

KEY POINTS:

- 1) ASK QUESTIONS
- 2) DRAW PICTURES IF NEEDED
- 3) MAKE CONNECTIONS AND LINKS
- 4) HAVE A FINAL THESIS ABOUT THE SOURCE

