The Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography contains a list of sources followed by a summary (annotation) of each one. A key purpose of the annotation is for the student to begin interacting with their sources in order to develop their own opinions and insights that will form the basis of their paper. Like any bibliography, an annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of research sources. In addition to bibliographic data, an annotated bibliography provides a concise summary of each source and provides an assessment of its value or relevance.

An annotated bibliography includes:

- **A proper reference citation (APA)**
- **A short Summary**: Discuss what the source says in your own words and focus on the scholar(s)'s conclusions. **DO NOT COPY AND PASTE.** In some annotated bibliographies, students will also be required to write an evaluation (ie: Where was the source published and by whom?) to determine the credibility and reliability of the source.
- **Use**: Why the source is useful for your argument. This is where the writer will include facts, statistics, quotes or ideas from the source material that they might include in their assignment.

Here is an example of an annotated bibliography entry:


The author found that situations which make children feel less equal to their peers can harm their mental health as adults. One in four children suffer from self-esteem issues; one in three live in poverty that affects their self-esteem.

This is strong evidence from a peer reviewed journal of the effect of poverty on juvenile delinquency: It starts with damage to the child’s self-esteem. Poverty and inequality shape many into maladjusted teens adults. This could be a root cause of juvenile delinquency.

**Note**: While this is an excellent source of reference, students are encouraged to check their syllabus and/or rubric to ensure they include all requirements of an assignment.