Research Part One: Bibliography and Reflective Annotated Bibliography

A bibliography is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) that the researcher has used for researching a topic. Bibliographies are sometimes called "references" or "works cited" depending on the style format. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographical information (the author, title, publisher, etc.). An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an annotated bibliography is a list of research sources with corresponding citations and a cited summary. In an annotated bibliography, a bibliographical entry is listed at the top of the page for each source (exactly as it would appear on the reference or works cited page). Under the bibliographical entry, is a cited summary for each source, which includes a brief overview of the main points of the source. The reflective annotated bibliography also includes an assessment and reflection of the source.

- Understand and practice communication as a process in which researching, drafting, and editing stages may need to be completed repeatedly.
- Demonstrate a course-level ability to locate, use, acknowledge, and synthesize appropriate, credible content/evidence from sources to support and enrich your communication-related work.

Why should I write an annotated bibliography?
To learn about your topic: Writing an annotated bibliography is excellent preparation for a research project. Just collecting sources for a bibliography is useful, but when you have to write annotations for each source, you're forced to read each source more carefully. You begin to read more critically instead of just collecting information. At the professional level, annotated bibliographies allow you to see what has been done in the literature and where your own research or scholarship can fit. An annotated bibliography can also help to formulate a thesis; every good research paper has an argument. The purpose of research is to state and support a thesis. So, an important part of research is developing a thesis that is debatable, interesting, and current. Writing an annotated bibliography can help you gain a good perspective on what is being said about your topic. By reading and responding to a variety of sources on a topic, you'll start to see the overarching issues and arguments. You will then be able to develop your own point of view.

Writing Tips:
- Refer to yourself in third person as “the researcher.” You should not use first or second person (automatic deduction of 10 points).
- Minimize passive voice – you must be concise, focused, direct, and clear in your writing.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, and formatting.
- Use 12 point font, double-space, set margins to 1” all around, and staple your final assignment.
- Self and peer-revise and edit.
For the annotated bibliography part of the research assignment, you will do the following:

1. Choose a topic that is interesting or relevant to you. You may choose a topic that aligns with something you love (technology, art, music), something that you want to pursue further (physical or mental disabilities, brain-based education), or something that is related to your major (architecture, engineering, nursing, political science).

2. Sufficiently limit or narrow your topic. For example, a political science major might decide to research the election process, focusing on the role of money from Super PACs or the role of speechmaking in persuading voters.

3. Perform research to locate six appropriate, credible, and valid database sources. You will use a combination of primary and secondary sources. At least two of the sources must be primary sources.

4. Create a bibliography page that includes all alphabetized sources. It is called References in APA style and Works Cited in MLA style.
   a. Separate page with page number
   b. Times New Roman /12 point font
   c. Center the title (References or Works Cited)
   d. Double Space
   e. Sources in alphabetical order by the first word of the entry
   f. Indent second and subsequent lines of entry

5. Completely annotate all sources.

6. Create an annotated bibliography for each source that includes all the required information:
   ✓ Bibliographical Entry: Should be written in MLA or APA format.
   ✓ Summary: Some annotations merely summarize the source.
     o Identify the type/genre, validity, purpose, and intended audience of the text.
     o Identify key terminology or words.
     o Describe the thesis or main argument(s) of the source.
     o Explain the topics/main points that are covered (what the article is about).
     o Identify the types of evidence the author uses to support the arguments or claims.
     o Identify what conclusions the author surmises.
     o The depth/length of your annotations determines the detail of your summary.
     o 5-8 sentences minimum
   ✓ Assessment: After summarizing a source, it is helpful to evaluate it.
     o Explain why you chose this source and its usefulness to your topic.
     o Explain how it compares with other sources in your bibliography.
     o Identify the reliability/credibility of the information, author, and publication.
     o Determine whether the source has more bias or objectivity (logical appeals, ethical appeals, emotional appeals, loaded language, etc.).
The assignment will include:

- Topic Choice, Rationale, Narrowed Topic, and Reflection (topic must be sufficiently focused) - 4 points (due ________________)
- Six appropriate, credible, and valid database sources (at least two primary sources) - 6 points (due ________________)
- Bibliography page for all sources - 3 points (due ________________)
- Annotated sources - (identify appeals in sources) – 30 points (due ________________)
- Annotated Bibliography for all sources (must include all the requirements as identified in the graphic organizer) - 42 points (due ________________)
- Correct Format/Documentation - 10 points
- Conventions – 5 points

Points earned

100 Total points

Comments:
Graphic Organizers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic Choice</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrowed Topic</th>
<th>Topic Reflection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Annotated Bibliography

Bibliographical Entry: _________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Summary:

Assessment:

Reflection:
How to Write an Annotated Bibliography


--Extra space here--

This is the annotation of the above source, which is formatted according to MLA guidelines for the bibliographical information listed above. If this were a real annotation for this source, it would offer a brief summary of what this source says about stem cell research.

--Extra space here--

Assess the source. Determine reliability and credibility and bias or objectivity of the research. Identify language that indicates bias and the argument’s logic, emotional, or ethical appeals. Explain whether the facts are well documented. Identify the author and the author’s credibility, qualifications.

--Extra space here--

After summarizing and assessing, reflect on this source. Explain how it fits into the research and why it is a helpful resource. Identify its scholarliness and generalities or specificities. Since "stem cell research" is a broad topic, explain how this source helped to narrow the topic.

--Extra space here--


Note: The annotations are not on separate pages. Continue with natural page breaks.
Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.

Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach.

Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises are also appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.