**Introduction to Annotated Bibliographies**

**Annotated bibliographies**summarize and evaluate sources found during your research that you may use in the development and completion of your project. The process of annotating a bibliography will help you assess how and when to use a particular source in your work.

**Turabian bibliography citations**

*Basic book citation:*

Author last name, first name. *Title*. Publication place: publisher, year of publication.

*Article in a book:*

Article author last name, first. “Article title.” In *Book Title*, edited by Editor First Name Last Name, pages. Publication place: publisher, year of publication.

*Digital journal article* (must include access date and either: URL, DOI, or database)

Article author last name, first. “Article title.” *Journal title* volume, number (volume date): pages. Access date. URL/DOI/database.

**Annotations**

The annotations in your bibliography should generally be short (around 150 words). Annotations are not simply summaries or abstracts. Annotations both describe the source and critically evaluate it. They may describe: point of view, authority, clarity, or appropriateness for the context of your project.

**Producing an annotated bibliography**

First, find and cite your source. Then, summarize the source’s key points. Finally, note the source’s usefulness.

An annotation might describe:

* the authors (why should we listen to them? Why are they a valuable source?)
* the authors’ purpose and intended audience
* the main points of the source/summary
* why the source is valuable to you/why it is relevant to your topic
* why the source is reliable
* special or unique aspects of the work
* strengths, weaknesses, or biases (does it support your work or will you refute it?)

**Evaluating Sources**

* What are the author’s credentials? Are they affiliated with a reputable institution?
* When was the source published? Is it current or out-of-date?
* Is the publisher a scholarly press or an unknown website?
* Is the source offering facts, analysis, or opinions?
* Does the work address your topic and cover aspects of other sources you have found?
* Is this a primary or secondary source?