

# Creating an Annotated Bibliography

## Why Have An Annotated Bibliography?

Creating an annotated bibliography lets your reader know what sources you used in the creation of your project. First, an annotated bibliography tells the reader how many sources you used and the quality and range of sources used in your research. Second, the annotation informs the reader about how you used your sources and why they were valuable to understanding your topic. An annotated bibliography is crucial to the NHD process because it illustrates the scope and depth of your research. You need to develop a system to track and categorize your research. The easiest method is to build the annotated bibliography as you research. Each source must be correctly cited and contain an annotation.

## How to Develop an Annotated Bibliography

### For the Citation:

- Author or Editor
- Publisher
- Year of publication or copy-right
- City of publication
- Title of book or journal, include issue and volume numbers when applicable
- Title of article
- Page numbers
- Hosts and URL addresses for websites

### For the Annotations:

Should be a minimum of 2-3 descriptive sentences.

- Briefly describe the source.
- How is the source important to your topic?
- What new information did you get from the source?
- How did the source help your research?

## Key Elements of an Annotated Bibliography:

- Top of page should say "Annotated Bibliography"
- Primary sources are listed first, alphabetically, by source type (e.g. Diaries, Documents, Letters, Newspapers, Photographs, Speeches, etc.), then Secondary sources, alphabetically, by source type.
- All work should be double-spaced
- All lines after the first lines are tabbed in one tab (½ inch)

### EXAMPLE:

**Annotated Bibliography** ← Proper Title

Secondary Sources ← Proper Subtitle

Collinson, Simon. "President or King?" *History Today* Nov. 2000: 9-15. *eLibrary*. Web. 15 Aug. 2011.  
<<http://www.elibrary.com>>. ← Proper Citation Format (MLA in this case)

This journal article argues that the partisan conflict that developed in the 1790s and came to a head in the election of 1800 was a result of the application of the ideals of the American Revolution. Understanding the American Revolution was the defining event in the lives of the electorate, the author argues that the Republicans used this event to appeal to voters, arguing that they would be completing the "revolution of 1776." This article helped in my research to help develop my thesis on the rise of the Republican Party as an outgrowth of the revolutionary generation.

## General Notes and Guidelines:

- Internet sources are legitimate, provided they can be authenticated. Wikipedia, about.com, and other "general knowledge" sources are not legitimate resources.
- Start on a Word document to save time. Make use of GoogleDocs to allow group members to work on the project, even if you are not together!
- Use bibliography websites to help you format your citations if you are unsure (e.g. Purdue OWL, BibMe)

The last section should be written in PAST tense, and explain HOW you USED this source in your research.

