Annotated Bibliography

Some professors will require an annotated bibliography or works cited. Annotations are brief explanations of a source that describe or evaluate it. The annotation starts at the end of the citation and should begin with a capital letter and end with a period, but it does not need to have the structure of a complete sentence.

MLA Format


Woodhouse, C. M. *Dostoyevsky*. Morrison and Gibb Limited, 1951. A biography of the life-story of Dostoyevsky, including the stories of the time period and circumstances under which he wrote his major works.

**Turabian Format**

The Turabian style annotated bibliography serves the same purpose as the MLA annotated works cited, but it is formatted somewhat differently. Skip a line between the bibliography reference and the annotation. Indent the annotation with a first-line indent.


Classic political philosophy text presenting Rousseau’s version of the “Social Contract” theory of government.

**APA Format**

The APA style annotated reference page serves the same purpose as the MLA annotated works cited and the Turabian annotated bibliography. It is, however, formatted slightly differently than the other. The entire annotation should be indented with an additional three spaces:


The careful writer’s guide to the taboos, bugbears, and outmoded rules of English usage.


Compares the judgments of leading authorities and sources on points of usage and style.

Indent again with three spaces if the annotation is longer than one line.