The following paragraphs are directly quoted from St. Cloud State University’s Leo: Literacy Education Online: Annotated Bibliography at [http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/annotated.html](http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/annotated.html) Copyright 2000. Bibliographic examples that follow have been adapted from this work.

“A bibliography or works cited provides readers with the author title and publication details of a source, whereas an annotated bibliography adds a brief summary, or annotation, about each source (book, magazine, journal, etc.). Placed just below the facts of the publication, the annotation describes the content of the work so that future reference to the entry by a researcher will provide essential data.

“When writing the annotation, provide enough information in approximately three to five sentences for readers to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the source’s purpose, content, and specific value. Be sure to use complete sentences and to avoid wordiness.

“Process for Writing an Annotated Bibliography

1. List the completed bibliographical citation.
2. Explain the main purpose of the work.
3. Briefly describe the content.”
4. Indicate the possible audience for the work.
5. Evaluate the relevance of the information.
6. Note any special features.
7. Warn readers of any defect, weakness, or bias.

“Annotations take different forms, depending on the type of source and on the audience. Articles are often argumentative; in these instances, the writer should incorporate the author’s position on the particular issue being addressed. The writer may choose to include quotes and/or references to individuals or to specific experiments for emphasis.

“In longer works, the material may often be more referential than argumentative in nature. In these cases the writer may choose to give a brief chapter-by-chapter sketch or to focus on one or two chapters. The focus of the annotation is dependent upon the focus of the paper.”

Web Format: Example of Scholarly Journal from a Database (article with two authors)

Tabor, Monica, and Robert Leicester. “Ethics and Education in Sixteenth Century England.” New Journal of British History 24:4 (2009): 12-22. Academic Search Complete. Web. 24 Jan. 2009. This scholarly article discusses the major moral issues of sixteenth-century college education in England. Topics include the closing of schools and the forfeiture of college properties to the crown during the reign of King Henry VIII, strategies used by some schools to avoid such forfeiture, and the role of monks and college professors as martyrs for their faiths. Authors Tabor and Leicester are clear that they favor the separation of church and state. They are less clear on how sixteenth-century colleges in England could have avoided their fate at the hands of Henry VIII.
Print Format: Example for Magazine Article (article with one author)


Williams, a journalist, claims that fears of "Andromeda Strain" types of genetic disease are unfounded. James D. Watson, co-discoverer of DNA, is quoted asserting his scientific opinion that no one since the discovery of DNA has suffered such a disease. Williams also mentions Robert Sinsheimer who acknowledges that fears are less justified than originally thought but who also fears that genetic engineering could possibly result in a new route for the transmission of cancer. This short article attempts to provide the general public with a balanced and up-to-date overview of the issue.

Print Format: Example for Book (book with three authors)

Cox, Tamara, George Smith, and Angela Jones. A Study on Essential Racial Issues in Canada. New York: Scribner, 2005. Print. The authors attempt to support their claims that racial issues in Canada have never been as wide-spread or as inflammatory as race problems in the United States. Based on a review of the literature of hundreds of articles and books about race relations in both countries, this work also gives historical data and statistics that students may find useful, including twenty-three comparative charts. However, the writing suffers from a wordy style which slows reading almost to a standstill. In general, this book attempts to provide a thorough, academic-level discussion of an issue that may not have needed proving in the first place.

Works Cited Formats For Other Sources Online:

To learn how to cite other types of sources in MLA format, see http://www.lonestar.edu/library under “Help with Research,” “Research Guides-Montgomery”→ MLA (electronic/print).

If you need APA format (instead of MLA), you will find an APA citing guide at the same web address given above under APA (electronic/print). APA is located at http://www.lonestar.edu/library under “Help with Research,” “Research Guides-Montgomery”→ APA (electronic/print).

The spacing in annotations found on this handout is based on Annotated Bibliography Format on page 130 of the MLA Handbook (7th ed.).