

Writing an Annotated Bibliography

You will create an annotated bibliography that focuses on a specific research question. You may choose this question from ten topics I will provide. Your bibliography must consist of 5 reliable and relevant sources. Please make sure you use MLA format for the entire bibliography (double space, 12 point font, correct heading, etc). There are two parts to every entry in an annotated bibliography: the **citation** and the **annotation**.

The Citation:

The citation includes the bibliographic information of the source. Be sure to use MLA format. Citations are organized alphabetically.

The Annotation:

The annotation is a brief paragraph following the citation that serves several different purposes. Each annotation must:

- Describe the content of the source
- Analyze the usefulness of the source
- Identify the source's intended audience
- Evaluate the credibility of the source
- Discuss the writer's background if you can find any information about them
- Describe how you plan to integrate this source's information into your argument

The last step is very important. Though you will not actually write a research paper on this topic, you will have done all the research required to create a thesis statement and state a position effectively using credible sources to bolster your argument. I should be able to read your annotations and know exactly which side you would take, what your reasons are, and why you've chosen these five sources to benefit your ethos. Tell me specifically what you might quote, what study you might reference, what example you are taking, etc. from the specific source. Yes, this means you **must quote from the source itself in your annotation. Show me those in-text citation and embedding skills!**

You don't have to choose five sources that all agree with you. A wonderful way to establish ethos is to reference the other side of the argument, and tell me why you disagree, or break down holes in their argument based on inconclusive research, appeal to anonymous authority, or other logical fallacies. Just make sure you know how you would use this specific source. Don't just choose one because it deals with your topic. Look further into its merit for your hypothetical paper. While religious-based reasons are okay, you may not use the Bible or any other religious book for a source. Find factual evidence to support your argument that will convince a wide range of people to listen to you.

Possible Research Questions:

1. Will you still eat at Chick-Fil-A? Why or why not?
2. Do we need to amend our gun laws? If so, how radically?

3. Are animals people too (consider moral vegetarianism, animal rights, hunting, other PETA issues)?
4. Should we teach sex education in schools? If so, how?
5. Is assisted suicide/euthanasia ethical? Should it be legal?
6. Is going to college worth a hefty student loan debt?
7. Is there/should there be a separation of church and state in every country? Why or why not?
8. Should we regulate the internet?
9. Is Facebook beneficial or detrimental to society?
10. Should we abolish the death penalty/keep abortion legal (choose one)? Why or why not?