

## Annotated Bibliography

### Writing Guide: Writing an Annotated Bibliography

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An annotated bibliography is a brief summary of a selection or all of your research sources and a brief evaluation of how relevant or helpful this resource will be for your research paper. Depending on the nature of your assignment, the annotated bibliography may be one stage of the research/writing process, or it may be the entire assignment. **Your annotations should reflect the nature of your research project and the guidelines of your assignment.**

#### **Sample MLA Annotated Bibliography:**

Pierce, Jeremy. "Destiny in the Wizarding World". *Introducing Philosophy Through Pop Culture*, edited by William Irwin and David Kyle Johnson, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010, pp. 89-98.

Despite author J.K. Rowling's assertion that she doesn't believe in destiny, prophecy plays a large role in the Harry Potter series and Potter does appear to be destined for something, namely the destruction of the 'Dark Lord'. Pierce's essay addresses the question of what it means to claim that Harry Potter has a destiny. The essay explores the role of destiny and prophecy, their various meanings, and the role they play in the Harry Potter stories.

In any discussion about destiny, the philosophical questions of freedom (free will), determinism and compatibilism inevitably arise. Pierce places these concepts within the context of the Potter books and the interplay of various characters' interpretations of these concepts provides the reader with different perspectives on these concepts. As such, it will be useful in the discussion about the tension between prophecy, destiny and Harry's right to determine his own future which pervades this series of novels.

#### **Sample APA Annotated Bibliography:**

Weinberg, R.A. (2007). *The Biology of Cancer*. New York: Garland Science.

The book synthesizes current understandings of how cancer occurs and the best pathways for treatment in the future. It begins with a condensed recap of basic biological constructs which lays the foundation for the more complex concepts discussed in the later chapters. Each chapter contains a "Synopsis and Prospects" at the end which summarizes the discussion thus far, highlights issues that continue to be a source of debate, and considers where research may be directed in the future.

One of Weinberg's chief goals is to enable students to move beyond the textbook and to be able to directly access and comprehend primary research literature. It is, therefore, a good source for the highly specialized vocabulary that is common in cancer research literature as well as enabling readers to gain an understanding of the common acronyms that tend to appear frequently in current bio-medical research literature. The additional CD-ROM and web-based resources connected to the book make this a valuable resource for students seeking to develop a deeper understanding of the various cancers that afflict humanity and the groundbreaking research that has led to new approaches in the treatment of cancers during the past century.

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### Sample CMS (Chicago) Annotated Bibliography:

Parker, John and Richard Rathbone. *African History: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Most people in the West are aware of African nations' status as former colonies of now collapsed empires. However, they tend to be unaware of the depth and richness of African history. Parker and Rathbone draw on examples from both Africa and the African diaspora to examine how Africans and historians have perceived and presented Africa's history.

Parker and Rathbone present a view of African history that moves beyond the stereotypes of the continent being out of step with the rest of the world. It provides an interesting insight into African history but also into the "craft" of being a good historian. This book paves the way for a critical re-evaluation of Africa's history and place in the contemporary world.

### For additional help and resources, check out:

**Everything Essays:** <http://alexandercollege.ca/writing-and-learning-centre/english-and-humanities/everything-essays/>

#### Essay Outline Worksheets:

[UT-Short Argumentative Essay-BLOCK PATTERN](#)

[UT-5+ pages Argumentative Essay- BLOCK-PATTERN](#)

[UT-Short Argumentative Essay-POINT-BY-POINT PATTERN](#)

[UT-5+pages Argumentative-Essay-POINT-BY-POINT-PATTERN](#)

**Guide:** [How to Write a Thesis Statement](#)

"PowToon" — a short cartoon on [How to Write a Thesis Statement](#)

**Citation Style Guides:** <http://alexandercollege.ca/writing-and-learning-centre/english-and-humanities/academic-writing-styles/>

For additional help, please make an appointment with a Writing & Learning Centre humanities and writing specialist at: <https://alexander.mywconline.com/>

**The next page is a worksheet for your annotated bibliography. List your sources in alphabetical order, in the style designated by your instructor. Below each resource, list the author's key ideas. Then list one or two reasons why you think this source will be helpful to you.**

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