



## The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

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### Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of cited sources about a topic where each citation is followed by a brief annotation (discussion of the source). The annotation usually consists of just one paragraph. An annotated bibliography is useful for documenting your research, exploring different viewpoints, and summarizing main ideas from different sources. The examples given in this handout deal with MLA format; check with your instructor to ensure that MLA is the preferred format. There are two parts to every entry in an annotated bibliography—the citation and the annotation.

#### The Citation:

The citation includes the bibliographical information of the source. Citations should be organized alphabetically. Refer to the MLA 9<sup>th</sup> Edition Quick Guide if you need help formatting your citations.

##### Example:

Rubin, Anne Sarah. *A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

#### The Annotation:

The annotation is a brief paragraph following the citation. The annotation of a source can serve several different purposes. Your professor may require your annotations to do any of the following:

- Write a brief summary of the information
- Write how the source will be helpful to your project
- Discuss the author's credentials and credibility
- Analyze who the source is directed towards

The length of an annotation depends on the assignment. Shorter annotations will most likely cover only main points and themes. Longer annotations may require more detailed descriptions, discussions, and evaluations of the source. Your professor may assign a word count or length for each annotation, so always make sure you understand the assignment or ask questions before you begin.

##### Example:

Rubin, Anne Sarah. *A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

This source contains an advertisement for Southern estates after the Civil War. The advertisement and the information on the surrounding pages provide a student learner with valuable information regarding relationships between the North and South after the Civil War. This information will prove valuable to an essay discussing the Reconstruction.