

THE ANNOTATED WORKS CITED LIST

An “annotated works cited list” looks similar to a standard works cited list. It is a list of sources gleaned through library or online research, sources that you may or may not end up using to help you write a research paper. An annotated works cited list includes everything on a standard works cited list, but it *also* includes brief “annotations” or summaries of the works listed. Annotated works cited lists should demonstrate your ability to:

- Identify, select and evaluate appropriate sources on a focused topic
- Write accurate summaries of those sources
- Properly cite them using standard MLA rules

This kind of list should provide a brief summary of the contents of each book, article, critique, review, interview, Internet document, website, film or video, etc. The annotation (placed directly below each citation) describes the essential details of the work so that other researchers reviewing your list will be able to make an informed decision about whether or not to review a given source simply by reviewing your summary explanation.

When writing the annotations, be sure to use the same MLA format you do for standard works cited lists. And remember to double space your list, indent all the lines of a given entry except for the first line, and list your citations alphabetically by the author’s last name.

When writing the annotations—the abstract or summary of each work you list—follow these guidelines:

1. Briefly describe the primary content of the article or source
2. Note any special features of the source (e.g. web source, illustrated magazine piece, etc.)
3. Describe the author's viewpoint, ideological framework, or main message
4. Briefly note any weaknesses in the item
5. Explain how this item relates to your research topic / question / thesis
6. Limit your annotation to approximately five sentences

As illustrated in the example below, after citing the normal elements found in a standard works cited lists, it is your job to provide an *overview* of the material, an analysis of its methodology, and a sense of its potential usefulness to your research topic.

Annotated List of Works Cited

Aarseth, Espen J. Cybertext: Perspectives on Ergodic Literature. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1997.

Aarseth articulates a comprehensive theory of interactive literature across technological and generic boundaries. "A cybertext is a machine for the production of a variety of expression" (3). According to Aarseth, "ergodic" literature is that in which "nontrivial effort is required to allow the reader to traverse the text" (1). The book includes chapters on hypertext literature, interactive fiction, and MUDs. Aarseth's interactive fiction chapter includes a call for better IF scholarship and criticism: "The adventure game is an artistic genre of its own, a unique aesthetic field of possibilities, which must be judged on its own terms" (107).

Hall, Mitchell. "Unsell the War. Vietnam and antiwar advertising." Historian. 58.1 (1995): 18p.v.

Focuses on J. William Fulbright's, Democrat of Arkansas, investigation of the Pentagon's extensive public relations activities, antiwar forces countered to develop publicity. It also includes an investigation into the Defense Department's lavish spending on a "propaganda campaign" of self-promotion during the Vietnam War, the Pentagon's public relations expenditures, the destruction in Vietnam, and the responsibility of the U.S. citizen. Special features include 3 black and white photographs.

Hillstrom, Kevin and Laurie Collier Hillstrom. The Vietnam Experience: a concise encyclopedia of American literature, songs and dance. West Port, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1998.

This concise encyclopedia explores the War's impact on both its participants and the American society at home through a study of the literature, songs and film. Special features include a bibliography, a list of films, songs and literature about the Vietnam War and an index. The discussion about the censorship of the play *Sticks and Bones* was of particular interest.