The Writing Center
DLA: Annotated Bibliography (MLA)

This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.

Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.

Student Name:

Important Note
To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

Activities (approximately 1 hour)
Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

What is an annotated bibliography?
An **annotated bibliography** is, essentially, a works cited page with an annotation (summary and evaluation) of each source under each entry. There is no one right way to write an annotated bibliography, so make sure to **carefully review your professor's assignment** for the type of annotations required.

Why am I being asked to write an annotated bibliography?
Many professors will ask their students to include an annotated bibliography with a research paper. Why is this? The purpose of an annotated bibliography is to learn more about the topic being researched and to help readers or other researchers find more information about the topic. Also, an annotated bibliography helps students have a deeper understanding of the sources used in their essays. Since an annotated bibliography involves summarizing the main points of a source and determining how the source fits into your paper, it requires a more complete understanding of sources and the topic of the essay.

Length and organization
The *MLA Handbook 9th Edition* provides the following guidance regarding length, title, and organization:

> In an annotated bibliography, the annotations should generally be no more than one paragraph. If, however, you need several paragraphs, indent each one but do not add an extra space between paragraphs. Follow your instructor's guidelines on the use of phrases or full sentences and the length of the annotations. The list should be titled Annotated Bibliography or Annotated List of Works Cited. Writers may organize the bibliography alphabetically by author or title (as for a normal list of works cited), by date of publication, or by subject. (226)

Major elements of an annotated bibliography
If you do not have specific class guidelines for completing your annotated bibliography, you can include the following: a bibliographic entry, summary, and evaluation. These elements are considered the three major elements of a standard annotated bibliography.

Bibliographic Entry
The bibliographic entry will include the source's author, title, publisher, date, and other necessary information, written in MLA format. You can refer to the Writing Center's "MLA 9th Edition Made Easy" handout for guidance on correctly formatting the bibliographic entry.

Summary
This part of your annotation includes a summary of the source's main and supporting points. The summary should not include any opinion, analysis, or evaluation. According to the *MLA Handbook 9th Edition*, your annotation "should not rehash minor details, cite evidence, quote the author, or recount steps in an argument" (226); however, check with your professor for specific guidance.

Evaluation
The evaluation is your assessment of the usefulness of the source. This part of your annotation often answers the questions, "Is this source reliable, and how can I use this source in my essay?" These annotations discuss your thoughts on the source and identify how it fits into the larger purpose of your research.

In addition to the above elements, you may also include a reflection on how the source helped shape your argument or changed your way of thinking about the topic.

MLA Annotation Sample—Summary and Evaluation

Landau, Elizabeth. "3 New Planets Could Host Life." *CNN*, 21 Apr. 2013. http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/18/us/planet-discovery/.

In this article, Landau discusses the recent planetary discoveries by NASA's Kepler telescope. There are three new planets in total, with the most likely candidate for habitability being Kepler 62f. Kepler scientists also offer their educated opinions on what each planet may be like. Since this news is recent and demonstrates NASA's ability to contribute new scientific discoveries, I used it to support my argument that NASA funding should not be cut in 2014.

How do I write an annotated bibliography?

There are a few simple steps you can follow to write an effective annotated bibliography:

1. Determine your purpose and audience:
   a. Should your annotations describe, summarize, and/or evaluate sources?
   b. Is your bibliography for you, your professor, experts, or newcomers?
2. Prepare some questions before you read:
   a. Is this source credible?
   b. What is this source saying? What is its main point? What are its supporting points?
   c. How can I use this source in my paper?
3. Conduct research:
   a. Find several sources* that discuss your topic.
      *If you are having a hard time finding sources, consider speaking with a librarian or working with Writing Center tutor.
   b. Create a citation for each source.
   c. Under each citation, answer the questions from the step above.
4. Prepare your entries:
   a. Working from your notes in the step above, draft a few sentences or paragraph on each source.
   b. Make sure to follow the guidelines on MLA formatting for your annotated bibliography. Check with your professor regarding the required formatting expectations.
   c. Revise and edit your entries for clarity, tone, and length. Remember that an annotation is a short summary and evaluation of the source.
   d. Make sure that your annotated bibliography follows all requirements from your instructor.

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Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

☐ 1. Annotated Bibliography Review

a. What is an annotated bibliography?

b. Why do professors assign annotated bibliographies?

c. What are the three major elements of an annotated bibliography?

☐ 2. Identify the Parts of an Annotated Bibliography

Look at the following MLA entry for an annotated bibliography. After reading it carefully, identify the following on the next page: the bibliographic entry, summary, and evaluation.

Bennett, William J. "U.S. Lag in Science, Math a Disaster in the Making." *CNN*, 9 Feb. 2012. http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/09/opinion/bennett-stem-education/.

William Bennett describes America's dire educational state of math and science, citing statistics that compare our overall rank in these categories to other industrialized nations unfavorably. He then proposes five ideas to fix this, ranging from changing how classes are taught in preschool to requiring supplemental training for teachers in math and science. This article supports the idea that the engineering and science inspiration that only NASA can provide—with its ambitious and public missions using state-of-the-art technology, easily appealing to children and adults alike—is in fact an answer to a problem that necessarily needs to be solved to continue moving forward.

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1) Bibliographic entry:

2) Summary:

3) Evaluation:

Choose activity 4a or 4b below.

☐ 4a. Revise Your Own Annotated Bibliography

Take out a current annotated bibliography you're working on for class. Identify the bibliographic entry, summary, and evaluation. Then make any necessary corrections. Include your MLA-formatted bibliographic entry with annotation, including a summary and evaluation, in the space under 4b. **If you do not have your own annotation to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (4b).**

☐ 4b. Write an Annotated Bibliography

Read the following article "White House Budget Would Trim NASA Funding Slightly," on page 6 & 7 of this DLA. Then create an MLA-formatted bibliographic entry with annotation, including a summary and evaluation. If you need help with the bibliographic entry, please see the Writing Center's "MLA 9th Edition Made Easy" handout.

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Building 26B, Room 1561, (909) 274-5325

☐ 5. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to EAB Navigate and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at writingcenter@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

Resources consulted:
"Annotated Bibliography." OWL: Purdue Online Writing Lab. Purdue University, 2012. Web. 22 Oct. 2012.
MLA Handbook, 9th ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2021.
"What guidance should I give my students for preparing an annotated bibliography?" The MLA Style Center, Modern Language Association, 4 Nov. 2016. Web. 23 Aug. 2017.

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The Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/federal-eye/wp/2013/04/10/white-house-budget-would-slightly-trim-nasa-funding

White House budget would trim NASA funding slightly

By Joel Achenbach April 10, 2013

The NASA budget would shrink slightly under President Obama's budget proposal. The White House is asking for $17.7 billion in funding, down about $50 million from what the agency received in 2012.

The proposed NASA budget includes $78 million, little more than starter money, for a mission that would use a robotic spacecraft to lasso a small asteroid and tug it back to a stable orbit a bit farther than the moon from Earth.

Astronauts could then visit the asteroid in a spaceship under development. But the money allotted to the program is slight enough that it gives the administration an out if technical problems scrap the project.

The budget blueprint says the $78 million would "develop needed technologies and study alternative approaches for a robotic mission to rendezvous with a small asteroid – one that would be harmless to Earth – and move it to a stable location outside the Moon's orbit."

NASA's public affairs staff points out that the total expenditures on new asteroid-related projects is $105 million, including funding for research on identifying potential hazards to the planet from near-Earth asteroids. NASA has also spent two years developing the heavy-lift rocket and crew capsule necessary to perform deep-space missions, such as a rendezvous with an asteroid.

The president's budget also includes a whack at a high-profile element of NASA: Planetary science, including the Mars program that last year put the rover Curiosity on the red planet. The proposal would cut Planetary Science dramatically, from $1.5 billion in 2012 to 1.217 billion in the coming fiscal year.

NASA administrator Charles Bolden said in a news conference that this was primarily the result of finding cheaper ways to achieve the same goals within the agency.

"We have now found ways to be much more frugal," Bolden said.

NASA says much of the reduction comes from a drop in funds needed for the Mars rover program, which had caused a spike in the Planetary Science outlay in previous years. The reduction in funding "is part of the normal development cycle," a NASA spokesman said by e-mail.

But Bill Nye, the "Science Guy" who is CEO of the Planetary Society, which advocates for robotic space exploration in the solar system, expressed his displeasure in a blog post Wednesday on the organization's Web site. The budget cut, he wrote, "will strangle future missions and reverse a decade's worth of investment building the world's premier exploration program."

He added: "NASA got approval to pursue a mission to capture and move an asteroid. This is intriguing and will receive a good deal of press coverage. But the disproportionate cuts to planetary science are disappointing and must get coverage, too. NASA did not get the message from Congress and the public about their wishes for missions to distant worlds."