# Annotated Bibliography Assignment

## What is it?

An annotated bibliography **lists sources you might use in your paper and includes notes** (annotations) about each source. It is different from a Works Cited page, which is part of your actual paper and only lists sources you actually took evidence from in the paper.

## Why do we have to do this?

First, it’s a great way to start researching and organizing your sources before you actually write your paper. It forces you to think critically about which sources you are using, how reliable they are, and how they will be useful. It also makes you find more sources than you might actually end up using. Many upper-level English classes and other subjects that ask you to write research papers require annotated bibliographies, so it’s good practice.

## How will it be scored?

See the rubric below or on Canvas.

## How do I write it?

At the top of the first page, **write your working thesis** (your so-far main idea), so it’s obvious how relevant your sources are.

Please include **AT LEAST SIX sources**. For each source, include the following, and color code the four parts four different colors so they are easy to see.

1. **CITATION:** a complete citation in MLA format.
2. **SUMMARY:** a sentence or two summarizing the topic and the author’s main point (PARAPHRASED, NOT QUOTED OR PLAGIARIZED).
3. **EVALUATION**:
   1. a statement about the **type of source** (e.g., a scholarly research article, an editorial from a professional magazine, a feature newspaper article, a chapter from a popular book, a U.S. government website).
   2. a short evaluation of the **authority** of the author to write about the topic, **quality** of the source, **objectivity**, etc. Google the author to find out who they are, and google the source if you don’t recognize it. Is it reliable? Is it fact-checked? Is there any reason it might be biased? If it is not a scholarly source, why is it still important?
4. **YOUR NOTES:** at least two sentences: Your own thoughts on **why this is relevant** for you in the context of your research paper, and **how you will use** this source.

## Example

*Working thesis:* **Although artificial turf has a few benefits, it should not be used for fields where children may be exposed to its toxins.**

***One out of six*** *entries:*

**CITATION:**

Miners, Zach. "Keep Off The Grass?." *District Administration* 44.11 (2008): 24. Academic Search Complete. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

**SUMMARY:**

Miners says that the synthetic turf is probably safe, but that school districts still caution teachers to make kids wash their hands after playing on it.

**EVALUATION**:

This is a short article in a magazine from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, so it seems authoritative, but is not scholarly. Zach Miners seems to actually just be a freelance writer, not a scientist, because he also has articles in computer magazines.

**NOTES:**

I will cite this as part of the concession for my paper, because it claims that the turf is probably safe, but it’s a good example of how the government is not protecting us from this danger. From other sources I’ve read, there is no safe amount of lead.

**Here is how it looks all together - please do it this way:**

|  |
| --- |
| Miners, Zach. "Keep Off The Grass?." *District Administration* 44.11 (2008): 24. Academic Search Complete. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.  Miners says that the synthetic turf is probably safe, but that school districts still caution teachers to make kids wash their hands after playing on it. This is a short article in a magazine from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, so it seems authoritative, but is not scholarly. Zach Miners seems to actually just be a freelance writer, not a scientist, because he also has articles in computer magazines.I will cite this as part of the concession for my paper, because it claims that the turf is probably safe, but it’s a good example of how the government is not protecting us from this danger. From other sources I’ve read, there is no safe amount of lead. |

## Grading Rubric

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | | | |
| # relevant  6 or more relevant sources | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |
| quality  - at least 2 scholarly/peer-reviewed sources  -all sources are credible  -no damaging sources unless for a really good reason | 8 pts  :) | 6 pts  almost | 5 pts  fix some | 4 pts  fix more |
| citations  all information, perfect format | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |
| summaries  -accurate  -complete  -paraphrased well | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |
| evaluations  -accurate  -complete | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |
| notes  -thoughtful  -thorough | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |
| MLA format  perfect:  -header  -heading  -title  -font/size  -spacing  -indents  -margins  -alignment | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |
| editing  mostly error-free | 6 pts  :) | 5 pts  almost | 4 pts  fix some | 3 pts  fix more |