**WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?**

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

**THE PROCESS**

First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

Cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style.

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

**SAMPLE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE**

Waite, L. J., Goldschneider, F. K., & Witsberger, C. (1986). Nonfamily living and the erosion of traditional family orientations among young adults. *American Sociological Review,* 51 (4), 541-554.

The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional gender roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.

1. **Steps to finalize:**
2. Take your 6 citations from the form in google and enter them in EasyBib. Make sure that you are following APA format.
3. In EasyBib, “Edit” each citation and this will allow you to “Add Annotation” where you will be able to take the information from your form and type it in paragraph form as directed above.
4. Directions will be given in class on Wednesday/ Thursday on how to submit your final annotated bib.
5. **Helpful hints on what to put in your annotation:** (This can be altered to fit what you need, but is set up for a “fill-in-the-blank” approach. See example on page 1.)
6. **In his/her (SOURCE TYPE – i.e. magazine, book, article/title, etc.), (AUTHOR – i.e. James Smith), a (GIVE CREDENTIALS – i.e. a Ph.D., researcher, doctor, teacher, writer for), argues that (MAIN POINT/OPINION). S/He states (SUMMARIZE BIG EVIDENCE). (AUTHOR – i.e. Smith) also notes that (MORE EVIDENCE). S/He concludes by stating (MORE EVIDENCE). The strengths of the article include (LIST WHY IT’S GOOD – i.e. up to date, backed up with facts). However, while most of the points presented in the (TYPE OF WORK – i.e. magazine, book, etc.) are logical and detailed, (AUTHOR – i.e. Smith) fails to take into account (TELL WHAT’S MISSING/GIVE CRITICISM – i.e. leaves out a point, twists a fact, ignores a perspective, vocabulary is hard to understand). (AUTHOR’S NAME – i.e. Smith’s) work would be a good source to use when (PHASE OF RESEARCH –i.e. beginning of research process, just trying to get a quick overview of the topic, you are already familiar with the topic, etc.) but not for (PHASE OF RESEARCH – i.e. serious study, people who don’t already know something about the topic).**