



Other types of writing



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Annotated bibliographies

Annotated bibliographies are bibliographies (alphabetical list of books, journals, and other source material used to write an assignment or paper) which include short comments for each item. These comments should briefly summarise the contents and the main arguments of the book or article. Importantly, your comments should **evaluate** the material. Early in your university studies, your evaluation could focus on the way in the book or article was useful to you when preparing your assignment. A well-developed annotated bibliography will include a brief critical analysis of the material, covering aspects such as the the argument it makes and the questions that it raises or leaves unanswered.

All essays must include a bibliography or reference list; however, your lecturer will instruct you if he or she requires an annotated bibliography. You must include the full bibliographic details for each item, then follow this with your comments. The example below is from a first year history essay.

Annotated bibliography	Comments
<p>Frost, A (1980) <i>Convicts and Empire: A Naval Question 1776-1811</i>, Oxford University Press, Melbourne.</p> <p>In this book Frost argues that there were several reasons behind the establishment of a penal colony at Botany Bay. <i>Convicts and Empire</i> was especially helpful in offering good background information on the wars and in describing the naval strategy. It was also helpful in describing the influence of French competition on the final decision.</p>	<p><i>full bibliographic details of the source used</i></p> <p><i>student's summary of book's contents and arguments</i></p> <p><i>student's evaluation of the material</i></p>

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ACADEMIC LITERACY

Learning, Teaching & Curriculum – Learning Development

