



Speech • Persuasive Speech • Annotated Bibliographies

Overview

WRITING AN annotated bibliography is an important research skill that is (hopefully) not entirely new to you. You will need to complete an entry modeled after the following example for *each source* used in your research, except websites, for which you will complete website evaluation forms.

FOR EACH SOURCE, you should:

- ✍ CITE the source using appropriate MLA format
- ✍ SUMMARIZE the content of the source. Paraphrase the overall material. This may take only a few sentences or a well-developed paragraph, depending on the type of source.
- ✍ ASSESS the validity of the source. Is the author/material reliable? etc.
- ✍ REFLECT on the helpfulness of the source in constructing your argument and preparing for your speech.

IF YOU NEED a refresher in exactly what an annotated bibliography entry should contain, the following websites have some great additional information to get you started, including the example from the Purdue OWL below.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/>

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>

REMEMBER: YOUR PAPERWORK for this speech will include the annotated bibliography as specified above, in addition to the usual works cited page. Copies of your sources will not be collected unless requested.

Sample Entry

THE FOLLOWING ENTRY follows MLA formatting; only the beginning of the citation is flush with the edge of the page.

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books 1995.
Print.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun. Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach. Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.