

English 10 • Research Paper • Review of Sources

What Is It?

A **REVIEW OF SOURCES** is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph called the **ANNOTATION**. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources you are going to use in your research paper.

The Process

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW to compile the necessary information about your sources for this assignment.

- ◆ Creating a review of sources calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise summary, succinct analysis, and informed research.
- ◆ 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, website, database, or document using the appropriate MLA style.
- ◆ The entries should be in alphabetical order by the author's last name. Remember if you are required to cite the source by the title (if there is no author), you need to go to the next word to alphabetize for any title that begins with an article adjective – *a*, *an*, or *the*.
- ◆ Write a concise summary and reflection that answers the following questions:
 - What is the main subject of the source?
 - Give a brief summary of the information.
 - How does this source answer your research question?
 - How will you use this source in your paper?

NOTE: This should be done for *each* source, so you should have a total of at least 3 entries for your **REVIEW OF SOURCES**. See the back of this paper for an example of one **REVIEW OF SOURCES** entry.



Example

BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE of one entry. Again, you need 3 entries, one for each source you will use/cite in your research paper. Your REVIEW OF SOURCES entries need to run one after the other (not on separate pages) with a double space between each separate source entry.

Morse, Jodie, et al. "Is That Your Final Answer?" *Time South Pacific* 19 June 2002: 28-32.

This article discusses the uproar that teachers, students, and even some principals are in because standardized testing is beginning to be mandated for graduation from high school and for children to move on to the next grade. Students are signing petitions and marching around city halls across the United States. Students are protesting by walking out of tests, and teachers have resorted to helping students with answers. Because of the high-stakes associated with standardized tests, cheating is now occurring, and problems are arising every day. Some teachers are teaching to the test instead of focusing on their school and subject's curriculum. This article would be helpful to use in my paper when showing the negative effects of standardized testing. Since it discusses the teacher's and some administrators' perspectives, I can use some of the material to show that educators are against standardized testing. I found this article to be insightful. It showed me a different point of view than the other sources I have found. (162 words)

Items to Note

HERE ARE SOME THINGS to note about the above example:

- The source citation is in correct MLA format (similar to what you would see on a Works Cited page) and is above its ANNOTATION (the paragraph about the article).
- Notice that the source citation uses a HANGING INDENTION. To make a hanging indention in Microsoft Word, go to your tool bar, click the small arrow beside "Paragraph," click on "Line Spacing Options," go to "Special," click on "Hanging," and then click "OK."
- Notice the spacing of everything in the example.
- Notice that the first line of the annotation is indented. Notice that the annotation is single-spaced.
- Notice that the word count is noted at the end of the annotation.
- As you compile your research material, check each of your REVIEW OF SOURCES entries to make sure that you have formatted yours like the one above. Make sure that your sources are in alphabetical order!

