Annotated Bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations in proper documentation style. Each citation is followed by one or two brief, descriptive, and evaluative paragraphs called the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Consequently, annotations are descriptive and critical and may contain your analysis of the source, not just a summary.

Purpose

- Gather and learn information about your topic
- Help formulate a thesis for your research paper
- Identify the issues about the topic and what other scholars say about them
- Inform the readers as to the source’s relevance in your research
- Provide a comprehensive overview of other research on the topic
- Help other scholars search and critique potential sources for their research

An annotated bibliography will provide some or all of the following:

- Cite the source in proper documentation format, i.e. MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.
- Summarize the source’s content and primary focus
- Identify the source’s major argument/s
- Assess the source’s method/s, conclusions, and reliability
- Evaluate author’s credentials and strengths and weaknesses in the argument/s
- Signify the source’s importance to the research
Annotated Bibliography Samples

**Chicago Manual of Style, 15th ed.**

Borstelmann, professor of Modern History at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, explores the role of race in American Cold War domestic and international politics and contextualizes the Civil Rights Movement in the international arena. He argues that the dilemmas for US leaders were serious because the American civil rights movement was tied to the rise of postwar anti-colonialism and because the United States (US) tried to build a broad, multiracial, anticommmunist international coalition to encourage gradual change with minimum provocation. Further, Borstelmann contends that the American civil rights movement evolved into an international human rights movement that continues today.

Because Borstelmann focuses his research and primary sources on American policymakers and civil rights leaders, he is more successful at identifying the ways in which Cold War politics served to expose America's racial injustices and pressure its leaders to respond rather than successfully demonstrating that the US wanted to build an all-inclusive coalition. By extensively using the speeches and writings of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., Stokely Carmichael, and other civil rights leaders, as well as the speeches and writings of American policymakers including Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and other influential members of the presidential administrations, he reveals the dichotomies and conflicts of American domestic and foreign policy with the reality of blacks in America. Consequently, this source is valuable because it establishes the mounting tension that eventually culminated in the race riots of 1967. However, this is a top-down historical narrative that has little insight into why racial tension continued to increase despite major policy changes – including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 – since it excludes the voices of blacks at the local level.

**APA, 6th ed.**

Jane Doe, an associate professor of political science and prominent specialist in political theory working out of the University of Bratislava, argues that despite developments in constructivist international theory, realism is still the best paradigm for understanding international relations (IR).

Doe’s methodology was to take five principle assertions from both classical realism and modern constructivism and apply those assertions to three prominent events in recent IR (i.e., the attacks on the U.S.S. Cole, the 9/11 attacks, and the war in Iraq). She determined that since realism puts greater emphasis on the “given” nature of the world stage, realism is more useful and more correct than constructivism. Unfortunately, Doe does not sufficiently answer why a political theory emphasizing a
“given” nature of international relations is more ideal than a theory that does not emphasize it. The method of her analysis is quite useful, yet how she arrived at the paper’s conclusions is extremely opaque since Doe makes numerous leaps in logic that are unsupported by clear analysis, thus suggesting that the reliability of the overall work is questionable. Regardless, the definitions of realism and constructivism and the general principles behind the methodology are the most useful aspects of this article, even if Doe’s execution of the methodology is poor. I will use Doe’s definitions of realism and constructivism but not her specific methodology.

MLA, 7th ed.
Ascione, Frank and Phil Arkow, eds. Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Animal Abuse: Linking the


Print.

This book is an in-depth series of essays that explores the link between animal abuse and human violence. It also offers the legislative and legal contexts of this established link and its applications. The book’s contributors include advocacy authors, theologians, industry organization directors, psychologists, professors, lobbyists, ASPCA and Humane Society executives, veterinarians, state representatives, and even a previous U.S. Secretary of Defense. Each contributor uses his or her unique voice and experience to help support the claim of a correlation between animal abuse and human violence, as well as to offer solutions for change and prevention.

Due to the sheer amount of expert opinions and scientific study contained within this book, it will be an invaluable research tool to help me establish ethos and logos. Because it is such a comprehensive work, I will be able to reference it often in my paper – while still retaining a variety of sources that such a thesis demands. Also, I can use this source to respond to opposition that there is not a definitive link between animal abuse and human violence – an attack on the premise that I hope to advance.