ANNOTATING A BIBLIOGRAPHY

An Annotated Bibliography is a tool for evaluating sources on a given topic. In essence, the annotation is like a brief review describing not only what the source covers, but also how well it covers the material.

Annotating a bibliography entry requires that you read the material to be annotated carefully in order to identify significant points that should be reflected in the annotation. Specifically, an annotation should make note of the following:

1. The material's thesis or primary argument.
2. Major issues or points developed in the material.
3. The nature of the material's supporting information (i.e. statistics, authorities, case studies, etc.).

Essentially, your annotation is a precis of the material you have read (see Lester, Writing Research Papers, 6th ed., p. 97). Also, do not forget to indicate in the bibliography entry itself the pages that are covered by the annotation.

EXAMPLES:


Bernel notes that Racine's Andromache is a tragedy guided by love, not by the intervention of the gods. He also concedes that Andromache is accountable for the death of the other three main characters. Admiring Racine's structure in Andromache, he further concludes that the characters' free will adds excitement to the play. Last of all, Bernel discusses in detail the different aspects of the production of the play.


Eggenschwiler interprets the scholar gypsy's infinite quest as an element of the logic of the poem. He suggests that the shepherd and the speaker (both representing a modern man) will fail because they "seek peacefulness" instead of "peacefully seeking knowledge" as does the scholar.