

Annotated Bibliography

WHAT TO INCLUDE

After the proper citation entry in the required format (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.), you will need anywhere from a few sentences to a full paragraph describing the source. If you are not given specific guidelines for this, try to answer these questions:

1. Why is the source credible?
2. What is the source's main argument? Summarize it for the reader.
3. How convincing or effective is the source in making this argument?
4. What piece of this argument is relevant to your paper?
5. How will you use this source to support your thesis?

MLA EXAMPLE

Murray, Donald M. "All Writing is Autobiography." *College Composition and Communication* 42.1(1991): 66-74. Print.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning author argues that writing is an individualistic process, built from our own experiences and the unique ways that those experiences have shaped and influenced our personal worldview. His use of the term "autobiography" refers to two main ideas: first, the ways in which our distinct perspectives appear in our writing in how we read and interpret ideas and information; and second, the ways in which our use of language in writing is a reflection of our own unique relationship with language. Murray effectively demonstrates his argument by giving several examples of his own personal writing and by discussing how these pieces are autobiographical. Though this article supports my main claim about writing, it seems to ignore the fact that writing is a social activity and that individual experiences are often mitigated by social circumstances.

APA EXAMPLE

Hannay, D., & Bolton, G. (1999). Therapeutic writing in primary care: A feasibility study. *Primary Care Psychiatry*, 5, 157-160.

The authors discuss therapeutic writing and its benefits, including self-empowerment, insight into one's problems, clarification and organization of thought, and illumination of particular memories and details. The article defines the process as "self-help" and defines those who can benefit from it as "anxious or depressed patients." The authors also argue, "The act of creating (as well as re-creating one's life) is also therapeutic in itself" (157). All of these issues are relevant to Barnes, not because she was prescribed to do therapeutic writing but because the writing itself, I argue, is a means of self-empowerment and re-birth into a healthier state. Also, the authors touch on Eakin's ideas that self-writing is not only recalling events from one's life but actually creating and re-creating a life. This connection could be useful in an expanded version of my project.