

Creating an Annotated Bibliography

Contributed by Mike Palmquist

Goals: To help students understand key concepts in an annotated bibliography

I've used this handout to help students understand the key concepts in an annotated bibliography. I can put it on an overhead slide or post it to the class Web page.

Typically, an annotated bibliography consists of a citation followed by an annotation. An annotation is a short summary of a source. Annotated bibliographies are especially helpful when you are doing group work, since people involved in a writing group may not have read all the sources that their group has identified as being relevant to an issue.

Your bibliography should be arranged alphabetically and you should use the MLA format (Modern Language Association). If you are unfamiliar with this format, you should consult pages 561 to 565 in the *Prentice Hall Guide for College Writers*.

Example entry in an annotated bibliography:

The diagram shows an annotated bibliography entry with several labels pointing to its parts:

- The Author of the Chapter:** Points to "Cazden, Courtney B."
- The title of the Chapter:** Points to "Classroom discourse."
- The Title of the Book in which the Chapter Appears:** Points to "Handbook of research on teaching (Third Edition)." (Note: The original image has a typo "Handbook" instead of "Handbook")
- The Editor of the Book:** Points to "Ed. Merrill C. Wittrock."
- The City and Publisher:** Points to "New York: Macmillan, 1986."
- The Year of Publication:** Points to "1986."
- Page Numbers:** Points to "432-463."

The annotated entry is: **Cazden, Courtney B. "Classroom discourse." Handbook of research on teaching (Third Edition). Ed. Merrill C. Wittrock. New York: Macmillan, 1986. 432-463.**

The annotation is: Cazden reviews research in classroom discourse from a sociolinguistic perspective. She provides a fairly useful discussion of some of the key issues in the field and concludes with a discussion of the relationships between discourse and cognition.

Note the use of quotation marks in chapter titles, underlining of book titles, and the use of periods and commas between elements of the citation. For a fuller discussion of these elements, see pages 561 to 565 in the *Prentice Hall Guide*.