Sample Critical Annotation


In this assessment of Bharati Mukherjee’s work, Miller, a sessional instructor at Concordia University College of Alberta, contends that physical spaces are intimately linked to female identity, and that “mobility allows [Mukherjee’s] female characters to move beyond the traditional boundaries of female identity” (63). In her analysis of The Tree Bride’s protagonist, Tara, Miller asserts that despite evidence of Tara’s ability to convert—at least partially—to the “promise offered by American mobility and modern feminist idioms,” she is still “firmly embedded within the social and cultural identity assigned by her gender, caste, and economic status.” This article offers insight into the travel narrative and provides a valuable study of my primary text.

This example of an annotation can be found at http://transitionlit.wordpress.com/about-your-assignments/assignment-examples/annotated-bibliography-example/

Annotated Bibliography – Critical MLA Style Grades 10 - 12

Online guides and video tutorials @ http://sdsslibrary.weebly.com/annotated-bibliography.html

What is an annotated bibliography?
An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books and articles that you used for your research. Each citation is followed by a brief (100 -200 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader, usually your teacher, of the relevance, accuracy and quality of the sources you used. Furthermore, you construct a critique of the journal article and how the sources relate to your primary text of study.

What should a critical annotation include?
- complete bibliographic information in MLA style
- explain the authority and/or qualifications of the author, journal and institution
- brief summary of the article
- strengths and/or weaknesses of the source
- are there any biases
- readability of the source
- a critical evaluation or why you feel this work is suitable for your topic
- include quotations from the work to support your evaluation
- can you compare this article to others
### Critical Annotation Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Incomplete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Citations</strong></td>
<td>Citation is structured correctly in MLA style. 3 academic resources used.</td>
<td>There are 1-2 of errors in the structure of the MLA citation. 2 academic resources used.</td>
<td>There are 3-4 errors in the structure of the MLA style citation. Less than 2 academic sources used. Resources used are not academic.</td>
<td>There are numerous errors in the structure of the MLA style citation. Non-academic resources such as generic websites and Wikipedia are used.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annotation</strong></td>
<td>Annotation is 100 - 200 words. Clearly summarizes the authority (author, institution, journal) of the work. The reliability of the source is well defended. Clearly summarizes the main idea of the source and it explicitly relates to your argument. Includes relevant quotations from the article linked to your argument and evaluation.</td>
<td>Annotation is 75 - 100 words. Partially speaks to the authority of the work. The reliability is of the source is clear. Summarizes the main idea of the source and attempts to relate source to argument. Includes quotations from the article and shows an effort to link to your argument and evaluation.</td>
<td>Annotation is 50 - 75 words. Briefly speaks to the authority of the work. The reliability of the source is not clear. Summarizes the main idea of the source but connection to argument is not apparent. A quotation is included but no link is articulated to your argument or evaluation.</td>
<td>Annotation is less than 50 words. Does not make any reference to the author or journal publication. The source is unreliable. Attempt to summarize article but has trouble focusing the main idea. Makes little or no attempt to connect article to argument. No quotations are given.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conventions</strong></td>
<td>Writing is grammatically sound. There are few, if any, errors in spelling or punctuation. Academic style and language is evident.</td>
<td>The grammar is mostly sound. There are 2-3 errors in spelling and punctuation. While academic style is evident colloquial word choice detracts from writing.</td>
<td>Several grammar errors are evident. There are 3-4 errors in spelling and punctuation. Weak academic writing style and colloquial word choice. Writing is informal.</td>
<td>There are so many errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation, that it is distracting to the reader. No evident academic style or language. Writing is too informal.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** /20