

Guidelines for Writing Annotations

You will need an annotated bibliography for your History Day project. **For each source** you use, you need to **write** a short **annotation** that **describes the source, what you learned from it, and how you used it for your project**. The following questions will be helpful as you write your annotations:

1. What type of reference is it? Is it very specific or a broad overview of your topic? For example, does it discuss just one person or just one part of an incident or topic? Or is it a complete discussion of your entire topic?
2. What information did you gain from this source? How did help you understand your topic better?
3. How did you use this source in researching and preparing your entry? Be specific. For example, did you use this source as background reading? Did you use it to gain information or quotes to include in your paper, exhibit, web site, documentary, or performance? Did the source provide videos, pictures, documents, letters, journals, newspaper articles, or other items for your project?

Make sure your annotation says something. Do not write, “This book gave me interesting information.” Instead write, for example, “This author explained the Civil Rights Movement before Martin Luther King and helped me identify important Black leaders. The book also had pictures which I used in my exhibit.”

With this information about annotations in mind, write an annotation for each of your sources. **You need at least two or three sentences.**