



Academic Support Center

Annotated Bibliographies

An annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources.

1. Establish author's credentials:

- What is the institutional affiliation (where he or she works), educational background, past writings, or experience?
- Does the information appear to be valid and well-researched, or is it questionable and unsupported by evidence? Are the authors conclusions based on the evidence collected reasonable? Is the evidence collected based on a large enough sample?

2. Summarize: If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say?

- What are the main arguments?
- What is the point of this book or article?
- What topics are covered?

3. Reflect: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research.

- Was this source helpful to you?
- How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use it in your research project?
- Has it changed how you think about your topic?

(See example on back)

APA Example:

Battle, K. (2014). Child poverty: The evolution and impact of child benefits. *Canadian Journal of Sociology, 47*(3), 29-38.

Ken Battle, an extensively-published policy analyst, provides a close study of some government documents to explain child benefits in Canada. He outlines fundamental assumptions supporting the belief that all society members should contribute to the upbringing of children. He compares Canadian child poverty rates to those in other countries, paying particular attention to the National Child Benefit (NCB), arguing that it did not deserve the criticism it received from politicians and journalists. He outlines the NCB's development, costs, and benefits, including its dollar contribution to a typical recipient's income. He criticizes the Conservative government which scaled back the program in favor of the Universal Child Care Benefit (UCCB), and clearly explains why it is inferior. Battle does offer a valuable source for my essay, because the chapter provides a concise overview of government-funded assistance currently available to parents. This offers context for analyzing the scope and financial reality of child poverty in Canada.

MLA Example:

Bolinger, Benjamin. "Point: Abolishing the Electoral College." *International Social Science Review. 83.3/4* (2007): 179-182. *Academic Source Premier*. Web. 11 Feb. 2016.

Benjamin Bolinger argues that the United States Electoral College should be abolished because it can and has resulted in a president being elected by the Electoral College without winning the popular vote. Bolinger explains how the Electoral College works, and goes on to explain that because of the way delegates are selected, states are not fairly represented, and territories are not represented at all. Bolinger recognizes that it will take a Constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College and suggests alternatives that would be in keeping with American values and the democratic principle of majority rule. Bolinger's article appears in a peer-reviewed publication; is logically organized and supported with clear, well-documented examples. This article will help to support my argument against the Electoral College. I will use the examples of how the people within states are not represented fairly. I did not realize that territories are not represented at all. I may include this fact as another supporting reason for abolition.