

Honors British Literature
Annotated Bibliography – *Much Ado About Nothing*

What is an Annotated Bibliography?

- An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents.
- Each citation is followed by a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation.
- The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Annotations are **descriptive** and **critical**; they expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression and authority.

How Do I Research and Write an Annotated Bibliography?

- First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Locate and examine the actual items.
Consider:
 - examining the table of contents and index
 - reading the author's biography to determine how knowledgeable he/she is about the subject
 - reading the Works Cited and/or Bibliography for the source to check the quality of sources used to write this work
- Then choose those works that have the best potential to address your topic. Remember, these sources can both support and refute your thesis.
- Read the articles or the sections/chapters of the book that relate to your topic, highlighting the information you think you would use in writing a research paper. **Note: these highlighted articles must be turned in with your final annotated bibliography.**
- Choose the top five items that you would actually consider using as sources if you were writing this research paper. In addition, choose two items that you would not use in your research. Be prepared to explain why.
- Cite the book, article, or documentation using proper MLA format. See your research manual or the on-line reference guide for direction. Remember, you may also use NoodleTools or another accurate on-line bibliography maker.
- Write a 200-250 word annotation that addresses the categories in the attached format sample.

What are the Requirements for this Annotated Bibliography Assignment?

- Your annotated bibliography must be grounded in a *working thesis* that is approved by your teacher. In other words, if you chose to examine Beatrice and Benedick vs. Hero and Claudio as romantic couples, what argument do you want to make? This thesis must be present on your final annotated bibliography. After you complete your research, you will write a final thesis statement that is specific, unified, and arguable.
- Your annotated bibliography must include seven entries, five sources that you would use for your research and two that you would not.
- Your annotated bibliography must be typed, double-spaced, include 1" margins, and include the proper heading in the upper left hand corner of your paper (your name, your teacher's name, title of class and mods, date).
- You must include a variety of sources in your bibliography; at least one entry must include a book and another entry must include an electronic database.

(OVER, PLEASE)

What Topics May I Investigate for my Annotated Bibliography?

You may choose from the following categories:

- 1) The language of Shakespeare's comedies (consider the nature of humor, the nature and structure of jokes, wordplay, language of comedies vs. tragedies, etc.)
- 2) Beatrice – Feminism in *Much Ado*
- 3) Dogberry – the Role of Shakespeare's Clowns and Fools
- 4) The Role of Music in *Much Ado* and/or Shakespeare's comedies
- 5) Don John – Shakespeare's Villains
- 6) Gender Roles and Stereotypes in *Much Ado*
- 7) The Role of Deception/Misinterpretation/Trickery/Manipulation/Masks (Physical and Emotional)
- 8) Beatrice vs. Hero
- 9) Love Lessons: Beatrice & Benedick vs. Hero & Claudio
- 10) Beatrice and Benedick: A Marriage of Equal Minds?
- 11) A Look at the Culture of Messina Society (angling, archery, falconry, eating/drinking, gambling, brothel-haunting, etc.)
- 12) Dealer's Choice – Come up with a topic you would LOVE to research; just be sure to run it by me

Sample Annotated Bibliography Format

Bibliographic Reference:

[Author: Last Name, First Name.] [Name of book, article, document] [Publisher Information]
[Date of Publication] [Page Numbers, if appropriate]

200 to 250 Word Summary:

1. Audience, purpose, voice, tone, persona, media. Conduct a rhetorical analysis, evaluating the source's intended audience, purpose, scope, and so on.
2. Relevance? Importance? Is the source timely, controversial, and/or focused on matters related to your research project? Are the results significant? Is the argument persuasive?
3. Authority of the researchers. What universities or corporations support the research? Is the researcher or researcher team frequently cited by others? Is the source published by a credible company, peer reviewed?
4. Significant findings and arguments. You may want to compare and contrast this work with another you have cited, or explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.
5. Quality of the research or article. Is the work well done? How is the quality of writing? Is it clear and easy to understand?