How to Write an Annotated Bibliography

What is an annotated bibliography?

A bibliography is a list of sources that is used when researching a topic. Each source is formatted according to a specific citation style (in this case, MLA). An annotation is a description of the source. In this case, it includes a citation, summary, and evaluation. An annotation is usually two to three paragraphs. A good annotated bibliography demonstrates that a student has a thorough understanding of the literature about a topic.

Components of an annotated bibliography.

- **Citation.** Format according to MLA citation style. It is always listed first and the annotation, is listed below.
- **Summary.** This is the most basic part of the annotation. Questions to answer may include:
  - What are the main points expressed? In your own words, what is this source about?
  - What evidence has the author provided to support the main points of the source?
- **Evaluation.** A critical analysis of the source is generally required. Questions to answer may include:
  - What makes this source valuable for your research? Does it provide information not found elsewhere?
  - Why is the information in this source reliable and/or credible? What are the author’s credentials?
  - What is the author’s point of view? Is the source biased or does it have an agenda?
  - Who is the audience for this source? Is it scholarly, trade, or popular?

Gender stereotypes in music videos


This essay from the *Encyclopedia of Children, Adolescents, and the Media* discusses the perpetuation of stereotypes for both men and women in music videos. After establishing the importance that music plays in the lives of young people, the essay details how depictions of women are usually portrayed as sexual objects, using Madonna as an example. Although women may not be subservient to men, they use their sexuality as a form of power. She also finds that men are depicted along traditional lines, as aggressors who flout the rules, particularly in rock and heavy metal videos.

Dafna Lemish has a PhD and is the Department Chair of the Radio-TV College of Mass Communication & Media Arts at Southern Illinois University. She is also the founding editor of the *Journal of Children and Media*. This essay provides a general overview of the state of gender roles in music and videos. Her reasoning is based on studies that examine portrayals of men and women in music, and is objectively written. This essay is from a media encyclopedia and is written for the college audience.
This book is about identity in music, with three chapters that focus on gender. He establishes that rock music is “an art form that proclaims its emotional authenticity and resistance to convention.” With music videos, he claims that it provides viewers with *contextualization* in which the audience is meant to have the same reaction; this is different than listening to music, which is *decontextualized*, where “listeners are presumed to be free to attach any meaning to them.” He goes on to discuss how depictions of gender in music videos are generally far removed from reality, especially in the depiction of women as sexual objects.

Theodore Gracyk is the Department Chair and Professor of Philosophy at Minnesota State University Morehead and has published dozens of books and essays, most of which relate to aesthetics, or the philosophical examination of what is beautiful or pleasurable. He provides an interesting perspective on this issue by examining it through this lens. The book contains lots of references to other sources, and it’s clear that this is a scholarly source with an intended audience of researchers in the field of philosophy and media studies.


This article takes an in-depth look at how adolescents get sexual messages from music videos. After providing data about the sexual habits of adolescents, the authors state that the media is the second leading source of information about sex. They conducted a study that examined depictions of sexual attire and sexual behavior on four music video networks: MTV, MTV2, BET and GAC. They found that female sexual attire and sexual behavior is much more prevalent in women, and is most frequent on BET. The authors conclude that more research is needed to determine if this exposure leads American adolescents to be sexually promiscuous.

The authors are two professors and a graduate assistant from the Health Promotion and Education Program at the University of Cincinnati. This is a scholarly source with an intended audience of health professionals and researchers. The authors view is that premarital sex is a public health problem, so there is a bias present. The introduction provides irrelevant facts about the sexual behavior of American youth and the conclusions from the study provide interesting information about the frequency of sexual images in music videos, but they do not provide any additional information about the consequences of those images.