**How to write an annotation**

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When you're writing with sources, you can't just use the first few random sources you find. You have to evaluate each source to see if it's a good fit. That means if you want to use it for an academic paper, you need to determine if the source is reliable and useful. A reliable source has an author who is knowledgeable, credible, and fair.

Look for the author's credentials or other evidence of his or her expertise. Sometimes, you have to hunt. If there is no author, what can you tell about the sponsor or the site? Does it have a good reputation? Is there a connection to a credible organization, university, or a government agency?

A reliable source is relevant to your specific research question. If you learn something from the source, it's a good bet your readers want to learn the same thing. A reliable source should also be up to date, or at least reason enough to be relevant to your topic. A reliable source can be scholarly or popular, but what really matters is how you're going to use it.

Each source should make a legit contribution to helping you answer your research question. In other words, they should be useful, but that doesn't mean each source should agree 100% with your thesis. That would be boring. Sources can play all sorts of roles in your project.

So when you evaluate a source, start by asking yourself what you learned from it. Then, figure out how it can contribute to your project, and if you're evaluating it for an annotated bibliography, describe why the source is reliable and how it is useful. Now, there's no doubt your sources are valuable.

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