

Annotated Bibliography

(MLA)

What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is a list of cited sources that include an evaluation or summary of each source (book, article, website, etc.).

How is an annotated bibliography different from a works cited page?

There is not much difference between the two. An annotated bibliography is exactly like a works cited page, except for the addition of short evaluations/summaries after each citation.

How to write an annotation (evaluation or summary):

After reviewing the source, determine the overall purpose of the article and kind of support the author uses to express his/her purpose. What does the author say about the topic?

Points to remember:

- Set up sources like a works cited page according to MLA guidelines (For help with MLA citing, see a tutor).
- All of the language in the evaluation/summary should be your own.
- Include information about the purpose, scope, and content of the source.
- Each evaluation/summary will be in standard paragraph form.

Example:

Frauenheim, Ed. "Stop Reading This Headline and Get Back to Work." *CNET News.com*.

CNET Networks, 11 July 2005. Web. 17 Feb. 2006.

The author examines the results of a study of ten thousand employees conducted by America Online and Salary.com, which found that the Internet was the most popular means of wasting time at work. Frauenheim notes that the extra time spent surfing the Internet is costing companies an estimated \$759 billion a year but also quotes the senior vice president at Salary.com and a director at America Online, who argue that employee Internet use actually increases productivity and creativity in the workplace. Frauenheim suggests that the increase in personal Internet use at work might result from a longer average workday and that use of the Internet has made employees more efficient, giving them more free time to waste.

Thesis Statements

What is a thesis statement?

The thesis statement is the explicitly stated main idea, purpose, or argument of an essay.

Why does an essay need a thesis statement?

A thesis statement has two important purposes: it directs your reader to your main ideas and gives you, as a writer, a definite purpose to accomplish in structuring and composing your essay.

What should a good thesis statement do?

Predict: It should indicate the general direction of the essay.

Be arguable: It must assert a proposition that is discussible.

Control: It should commit the writer to a workable, main idea.

Obligate: It should obligate the writer to focus details, explanations, illustrations, and points in support of the argument stated in the thesis.

A thesis cannot be a fragment. It must be a complete sentence.

Poor: How life is for children in urban America.

Better: Children who live in America's inner-cities lack an appreciation for the sanctity of human life.

A thesis must not be worded as a question. The answer to the question could be the thesis.

Poor: Do Americans really need large refrigerators?

Better: The human health risks and environmental hazards posed by large refrigerators outweigh the benefits.

A thesis must be arguable.

Poor: Crack addicts should not have children.

Better: To decrease the number of crack-addicted babies, the government should begin sterilizing any woman caught possessing cocaine.

A thesis should not be a list that previews the major points of the essay. (Counters 5 paragraph essay)

Poor: Creating dungeon-type prisons would provide just punishment for criminals, deter crime, and save money.

Better: Creating dungeon-type prisons would eliminate the major shortcomings of our present rehabilitation-type prisons.

A thesis must not be too broad.

Poor: America's university system is plagued with problems.

Better: The constant decreasing of funds for America's universities is jeopardizing the integrity of higher education and America's future.

A thesis must not contain unrelated elements.

Poor: All novelists seek the truth, and some novelists are good psychologists.

Better: In their attempt to probe human nature, many novelists become excellent psychologists.

A thesis should not contain phrases like I think, in my opinion, or I believe.

Poor: In my opinion, smoking should not be allowed in any public space.

Better: Smoking should not be allowed in any public space.

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE WRITING CENTER

MLA Format

The following examples of the references format for the MLA style are based on the following sources:

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. Print.

Documenting Sources: A Hacker Handbooks Supplement. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008. Web. 26 Mar. 2009.

Print Sources

A book by one author:

Tan, Amy. *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. New York: Putnam, 2001. Print.

A book by multiple authors:

2-3 authors:

Bergeron, David J., and Gloria Bizjak. *First Responder*. 4th ed. New Jersey: Brady Prentice Hall, 1996. Print.

4 or more authors:

Bergeron, David J., et al. *First Responder*. 4th ed. New Jersey: Brady Prentice Hall, 1996. Print.

A book by an organization:

American Psychiatric Association. *Going Crazy: Are You?* Los Angeles: UCLA Print, 2000. Print.

Author with an editor:

Kerouac, Jack. *Atop an Underwood*. Ed. Paul Marion. New York: Penguin, 2000. Print.

Editor:

Craig, Patricia, ed. *The Oxford Book of Travel Stories*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996. Print.

Work in an anthology:

Desai, Anita. "Scholar and Gypsy." *The Oxford Book of Travel Stories*. Ed. Patricia Craig. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996. 251-73. Print.

Cross-referencing two or more works from the same anthology:

Craig, Patricia, ed. *The Oxford Book of Travel Stories*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1996. Print.

Desai, Anita. "Scholar and Gypsy." Craig 251-73.

Malouf, David. "The Kyogle Line." Craig 390-6.

Edition other than the first:

Auletta, Ken. *The Underclass*. Ed. John Smith. 2nd ed. Woodstock, NY: Overlook, 2000. Print.

Multivolume work:

Conway, Jill Ker, ed. *Written by Herself*. Vol. 2. New York: Random, 1996. Print. 5 vols.

Multivolume work with an edition other than the first:

Baym, Nina, ed. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature: 1820-1865*. 6th ed. Vol. B. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2003.

Article in a magazine:

Kaplan, Robert D. "History Moving North." *Atlantic Monthly* Feb. 1997: 21+. Print.

An article in a journal paginated by volume and issue:

Wood, Michael. "Broken Dates: Fiction and the Century." *Kenyon Review* 22.3 (2000): 50-64. Print.

Article in a daily newspaper:

Murphy, Sean P. "Decisions on Status of Tribes Draw Fire." *Boston Globe* 27 Mar. 2001: A2. Print.

Online Sources

An entire website:

Beavers, Anthony F., ed. *Exploring Ancient World Cultures*. U. of Evansville, 1997. Web. 12 Mar. 2001.

Peterson, Susan Lynn. *The Life of Martin Luther*. 1999. Web. 9 Mar. 2001.

Short work from a web site:

Shiva, Vandana. "Bioethics: A Third World Issue." *NativeWeb*. 2002. Web. 15 Sept. 2001.

Work from a service such as *InfoTrac*:

Johnson, Kirk. "The Mountain Lions of Michigan." *Endangered Species Update* 19.2 (2002): 27+. *Expanded Academic Index*. Web. 26 Nov. 2002.

Darnovsky, Marcy. "Embryo Cloning and Beyond." *Tikkun* July-Aug. 2002: 29-32. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 1 Nov. 2002.

Kolata, Gina. "Scientists Debating Future of Hormone Replacement." *New York Times* 23 Oct. 2002, late ed.: A20. *LexisNexis Academic*. Web. 26 Nov. 2005.

Article in an online magazine or newspaper:

Paulson, Steve. "Buddha on the Brain." *Salon.com*. N.P., 27 Nov. 2006. Web. 18 Jan. 2007.

Rubin, Joel. "Report Faults Charter School." *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, 22

Jan. 2005. Web. 24 Jan. 2005.

Other Sources

Work of art:

Constable, John. *Dedham Vale*. 1802. Oil on canvas. Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

Advertisement:

Truth by Calvin Klein. Advertisement. *Vogue* Dec. 2000: 95-8. Print.

Film or video:

Chocolat. Dir. Lasse Hallström. Perf. Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, Alfred Molina, Lena Olin, and Johnny Depp. Miramax, 2001. DVD.

Radio or television program:

"American Limbo." *This American Life*. Host Ira Glass. Public Radio Intl. WBEZ, Chicago, 9 Feb. 2001. Television.

Personal interview:

Shaikh, Michael. Personal interview. 22 Mar. 2001.

MLA Research Paper (Daly)

Daly 1

Angela Daly
Professor Chavez
English 101
14 March XXXX

A Call to Action:
Regulate Use of Cell Phones on the Road

When a cell phone goes off in a classroom or at a concert, we are irritated, but at least our lives are not endangered. When we are on the road, however, irresponsible cell phone users are more than irritating: They are putting our lives at risk. Many of us have witnessed drivers so distracted by dialing and chatting that they resemble drunk drivers, weaving between lanes, for example, or nearly running down pedestrians in crosswalks. A number of bills to regulate use of cell phones on the road have been introduced in state legislatures, and the time has come to push for their passage. Regulation is needed because drivers using phones are seriously impaired and because laws on negligent and reckless driving are not sufficient to punish offenders.

No one can deny that cell phones have caused traffic deaths and injuries. Cell phones were implicated in three fatal accidents in November 1999 alone. Early in November, two-year-old Morgan Pena was killed by a driver distracted by his cell phone. Morgan's mother, Patti Pena, reports that the driver "ran a stop sign at 45 mph, broadsided my vehicle and killed Morgan as she sat in her car seat." A week later, corrections officer Shannon Smith, who was guarding prisoners by the side of the road, was killed by a woman distracted by a phone call (Besthoff). On Thanksgiving weekend

Title is centered.

Opening sentences catch readers' attention.

Thesis asserts Angela Daly's main point.

Daly uses a clear topic sentence.

Signal phrase names the author of the quotation to follow.

No page number is available for this Web source.

Author's name is given in parentheses; no page number is available.

Marginal annotations indicate MLA-style formatting and effective writing.

Source: Diana Hacker (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).
This paper has been updated to follow the style guidelines in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (2009).

that same month, John and Carole Hall were killed when a Naval Academy midshipman crashed into their parked car. The driver said in court that when he looked up from the cell phone he was dialing, he was three feet from the car and had no time to stop (Stockwell B8).

Page number is given when available.

Clear topic sentences, like this one, are used throughout the paper.

Expert testimony, public opinion, and even cartoons suggest that driving while phoning is dangerous. Frances Bents, an expert on the relation between cell phones and accidents, estimates that between 450 and 1,000 crashes a year have some connection to cell phone use (Layton C9). In a survey published by Farmers Insurance Group, 87% of those polled said that cell phones affect a driver's ability, and 40% reported having close calls with drivers distracted by phones. Many cartoons have depicted the very real dangers of driving while distracted (see fig. 1).

Summary and long quotation are introduced with a signal phrase naming the authors.

Scientific research confirms the dangers of using phones while on the road. In 1997 an important study appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The authors, Donald Redelmeier and Robert Tibshirani, studied 699 volunteers who made their cell phone bills available in order to confirm the times when they had placed calls. The participants agreed to report any nonfatal collision in which they were involved. By comparing the time of a collision with the phone records, the researchers assessed the dangers of driving while phoning. The results are unsettling:

Long quotation is set off from the text; quotation marks are omitted.

We found that using a cellular telephone was associated with a risk of having a motor vehicle collision that was about about four times as high as



Fig. 1. A cartoon shows the dangers of using cell phones and other devices while driving (Lowe A21).

Illustration has figure number, caption, and source information.

that among the same drivers when they were not using their cellular telephones. This relative risk is similar to the hazard associated with driving with a blood alcohol level at the legal limit. (456)

The news media often exaggerated the latter claim ("similar to" is not "equal to"); nonetheless, the comparison with drunk driving suggests the extent to which cell phone use while driving can impair judgment.

A 1998 study focused on Oklahoma, one of the few states to keep records on fatal accidents involving cell phones. Using police records, John M. Violanti of the Rochester Institute of Technology investigated the relation between traffic fatalities in Oklahoma and

Summary begins with a signal phrase naming the author and ends with page numbers in parentheses.

the use or presence of a cell phone. He found a ninefold increase in the risk of fatality if a phone was being used and a doubled risk simply when a phone was present in a vehicle (522-23). The latter statistic is interesting, for it suggests that those who carry phones in their cars may tend to be more negligent (or prone to distractions of all kinds) than those who do not.

Daly counters an opposing argument.

Some groups have argued that state traffic laws make legislation regulating cell phone use unnecessary. Sadly, this is not true. Laws on traffic safety vary from state to state, and drivers distracted by cell phones can get off with light punishment even when they cause fatal accidents. For example, although the midshipman mentioned earlier was charged with vehicular manslaughter for the deaths of John and Carole Hall, the judge was unable to issue a verdict of guilty. Under Maryland law, he could only find the defendant guilty of negligent driving and impose a \$500 fine (Layton C1). Such a light sentence is not unusual. The driver who killed Morgan Pena in Pennsylvania received two tickets and a \$50 fine—and retained his driving privileges (Pena). In Georgia, a young woman distracted by her phone ran down and killed a two-year-old; her sentence was ninety days in boot camp and five hundred hours of community service (Ippolito J1). The families of the victims are understandably distressed by laws that lead to such light sentences.

Facts are documented with in-text citations: authors' names and page numbers (if available) in parentheses.

Daly uses an analogy to justify passing a special law.

When certain kinds of driver behavior are shown to be especially dangerous, we wisely draft special laws making them illegal and imposing specific punishments. Running red lights, failing to stop for a school bus, and drunk driving are obvious examples;

phoning in a moving vehicle should be no exception. Unlike more general laws covering negligent driving, specific laws leave little ambiguity for law officers and for judges and juries imposing punishments. Such laws have another important benefit: They leave no ambiguity for drivers. Currently, drivers can tease themselves into thinking they are using their car phones responsibly because the definition of "negligent driving" is vague.

As of December 2000, twenty countries were restricting use of cell phones in moving vehicles (Sundeen 8). In the United States, it is highly unlikely that legislation could be passed on the national level, since traffic safety is considered a state and local issue. To date, only a few counties and towns have passed traffic laws restricting cell phone use. For example, in Suffolk County, New York, it is illegal for drivers to use a handheld phone for anything but an emergency call while on the road (Haughney A8). The first town to restrict use of handheld phones was Brooklyn, Ohio (Layton C9). Brooklyn, the first community in the country to pass a seat belt law, has once again shown its concern for traffic safety.

Laws passed by counties and towns have had some effect, but it makes more sense to legislate at the state level. Local laws are not likely to have the impact of state laws, and keeping track of a wide variety of local ordinances is confusing for drivers. Even a spokesperson for Verizon Wireless has said that statewide bans are preferable to a "crazy patchwork quilt of ordinances" (qtd. in Haughney A8). Unfortunately, although a number of bills have been introduced in state legislatures, as of early 2001 no state law

Daly explains why US laws need to be passed on the state level.

Transition helps readers move from one paragraph to the next.

Daly cites an indirect source: words quoted in another source.

seriously restricting use of the phones had passed—largely because of effective lobbying from the wireless industry.

Daly counters a claim made by some opponents.

Despite the claims of some lobbyists, tough laws regulating phone use can make our roads safer. In Japan, for example, accidents linked to cell phones fell by 75% just a month after the country prohibited using a handheld phone while driving (Haughney A8). Research suggests and common sense tells us that it is not possible to drive an automobile at high speeds, dial numbers, and carry on conversations without significant risks. When such behavior is regulated, obviously our roads will be safer.

For variety Daly places a signal phrase after a brief quotation.

Because of mounting public awareness of the dangers of drivers distracted by phones, state legislators must begin to take the problem seriously. "It's definitely an issue that is gaining steam around the country," says Matt Sundeen of the National Conference of State Legislatures (qtd. in Layton C9). Lon Anderson of the American Automobile Association agrees: "There is momentum building," he says, to pass laws (qtd. in Layton C9). The time has come for states to adopt legislation restricting the use of cell phones in moving vehicles.

The paper ends with Daly's stand on the issue.

Works Cited

- Besthoff, Len. "Cell Phone Use Increases Risk of Accidents, but Users Willing to Take the Risk." *WRAL.com*. Capitol Broadcasting, 9 Nov. 1999. Web. 12 Jan. 2001.
- Farmers Insurance Group. "New Survey Shows Drivers Have Had 'Close Calls' with Cell Phone Users." *Farmers*. Farmers Insurance Group, 8 May 2000. Web. 12 Jan. 2001.
- Haughney, Christine. "Taking Phones out of Drivers' Hands." *Washington Post* 5 Nov. 2000: A8. Print.
- Ippolito, Milo. "Driver's Sentence Not Justice, Mom Says." *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* 25 Sept. 1999: J1. *eLibrary Curriculum*. Web. 12 Jan. 2001.
- Layton, Lyndsey. "Legislators Aiming to Disconnect Motorists." *Washington Post* 10 Dec. 2000: C1+. Print.
- Lowe, Chan. Cartoon. *Washington Post* 22 July 2000: A21. Print.
- Pena, Patricia N. "Patti Pena's Letter to Car Talk." *Cartalk.com*. Dewey, Cheatham, and Howe, n.d. Web. 10 Jan. 2001.
- Redelmeier, Donald A., and Robert J. Tibshirani. "Association between Cellular-Telephone Calls and Motor Vehicle Collisions." *New England Journal of Medicine* 336.7 (1997): 453-58. Print.
- Stockwell, Jamie. "Phone Use Faulted in Collision." *Washington Post* 6 Dec. 2000: B1+. Print.
- Sundeen, Matt. "Cell Phones and Highway Safety: 2000 State Legislative Update." *National Conference of State Legislatures*. Natl. Conf. of State Legislatures, Dec. 2000. Web. 27 Feb. 2001.
- Violanti, John M. "Cellular Phones and Fatal Traffic Collisions." *Accident Analysis and Prevention* 30.4 (1998): 519-24. Print.

Heading is centered.

List is alphabetized by authors' last names (or by title when a work has no author).

First line of each entry is at the left margin; extra lines are indented 1/2".

Double-spacing is used throughout.

Abbreviation "n.d." indicates that the online source has no update date.

