How to Create an Annotated Bibliography:

THREE COMPONENTS OF A GOOD ANNOTATION:

1. It identifies what type of source this is (song, poem, book, website, journal article, diary entry, newspaper article, you get the drift....)

2. How was the source used?

3. How did the source help you understand your topic and create your project?

EXAMPLE:


   This biography of Theodore Roosevelt helped me understand the way in which Philippe Bunau Varilla was able to get President Roosevelt to recognize the revolutionary government of Panama. It also gave me details regarding the specific treaties signed between the two nations that gave the U.S. control of the canal zone.

***Note that my annotation and citation are single-spaced, and all lines after the first line are tabbed in one-half (1/2) inch***

OVERALL:

An annotation normally should be about 2-4 sentences long. Really long annotations generally do not impress people. Get to the point! Please understand that it is NOT the purpose of an annotation to summarize the book but to assess its value to your research. The annotations "must explain how the source was used and how it helped you understand your topic." Do not recount what the source said in detail.
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:


Kirsten Appleton, ABC News journalist, interviewed and wrote an article on Paul Kuntzler, who was at the first picketing of the White House by a homosexual organization. Kuntzler recalls the reactions to the demonstration and how revolutionary it was for the gay rights movement. Appleton’s article emphasizes the change that the demonstration in front of the White House made on the movement and society.


Frank Kameny, one of the early leaders of the gay rights movement, wrote this letter to President Lyndon B. Johnson on the day of one of the first pickets by members of the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C. In the letter, Kameny explained that they were picketing the White House due to the unfair treatment of homosexuals by the government and gave a list of grievances that caused their protest. Kameny eloquently clarifies why the government’s treatment of homosexuals was wrong and compares it to the prejudice that other minorities have faced throughout history in order to make it easier for the reader to comprehend the injustice that homosexuals face.

Secondary Sources:


“Frank Kameny” is a short biography on Frank Kameny that was written by the Brookhaven National Laboratory, a multipurpose research institution funded by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Science. The article describes the various roles that Kameny filled during his life, the reasons for his actions, and how they were connected to later LGBT activism. It describes some of the most important events that Kameny was involved with and also contains several excellent quotes.


“Frank Kameny: American Hero” was written by Jonathan Caphehart, a writer for the Washington Post. The article chronicles the major effects that Kameny caused in the gay rights movement as well as directly relating his activism to modern victories for the homosexual community. Caphehart’s article emphasizes the long-lasting change that Frank Kameny’s actions have produced in the United States and also contains several excellent visual sources.


The staff of CNN, a prominent news site, wrote “Gay rights pioneer Kameny dead at 86.” The article was written shortly after his death and chronicled his life and achievements, noting some of the most important parts of his life in activism. It especially emphasizes how Kameny’s work in the early homophile movement made it possible for more recent triumphs in LGBT equality and also provides several pictures.