Annotations

What do I need to say in the annotation? What can be left out? How much detail should I give? DO NOT repeat the book name or author’s names, since that appears in the Citation already.
Consider these factors:
1. Purpose & Issues
2. Quality of resource
3. Relevance/It’s Place in your paper/thesis

Purpose & Issues

The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader about the research. How much? What is covered? What is the argument? Make it so that the reader can grasp the main research ISSUE(s). Just like an instructor might do in class.

What aspects of your topic does the source cover?—are they controversial?; or they not widely accepted or known; what is the focus of the author's attention. **These aspects should be reported in the annotation, especially if they are relevant to your thesis. Do NOT say “it covers my topic”, it wouldn’t BE IN the Bibliography if it wasn’t on topic!!!**

Quality of your resource

State the credentials of the author/s. Are they experts in the field? If you cannot find out about what makes the author good, then mention something about the source: Is it from a University? A research Institute? A government agency? Does it have a bibliography? Is it from a peer-reviewed journal? Do not repeat name of source.

Relevance to YOUR paper/Its PLACE in your paper

You must tell about how you envision using this info in your own paper. Use active “I” statements, such as: “I will use this source as evidence to support my thesis.” Or “I will use this source to contrast with my thesis and show a comparison.” Or I will use the information contained in this source as background (or historical context) in my paper.” Or “I will use this information to define the topics being discussed in my paper.” (the words in italics are paper structure words, use them)

Notice how an active “I” statement connects the info to YOUR thinking process behind any paper you write. This is what professors like to see.

Activity: Look at your annotation with these points in mind. Do revisions suggest themselves?

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