

Annotated Bibliography



What is an annotated bibliography?

An annotated bibliography is an organized list of sources exploring the same topic followed by a paragraph length annotation, usually 100 -200 words in length.

By noting descriptive and distinctive features (main arguments and conclusions) about a source, an annotated bibliography answers the question, “Why Is this material useful for researching a particular topic or question and if so, why?”



Descriptive or Informative

Breeding evil. (2005, August 6). *Economist*, 376(8438), 9. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com>

This editorial from the Economist describes the controversy surrounding video games and the effect they have on people who use them. The author points out that skepticism of new media have gone back to the time of the ancient Greeks, so this controversy surrounding video games is nothing new. The article also points out that most critics of gaming are people over 40 and it is an issue of generations not understanding one another, rather than of the games themselves. As the youth of today grow older, the controversy will die out, according to the author. The author of this article stresses the age factor over violence as the real reason for opposition to video games and stresses the good gaming has done in most areas of human life. **This article is distinctive in exploring the controversy surrounding video games from a generational standpoint and is written for a general audience.**

Please pay attention to the last sentence. While it points out distinctive features about the item it does not analyze the author's conclusions.



Analytical or Critical

Breeding evil. (2005, August 6). *Economist*, 376(8438), 9. Retrieved from <http://www.economist.com>

This editorial from the Economist describes the controversy surrounding video games and the effect they have on people who use them. The article points out that most critics of gaming are people over 40 and it is an issue of age not of the games themselves. While the author briefly mentions studies done around the issue of violence and gaming, he does not go into enough depth for the reader to truly know the range of studies that have actually been done in this area, other than to take his word that the research is unsatisfactory. The author of this article stresses the age factor over violence as the real reason for opposition to video games and stresses the good gaming has done in most areas of human life. This article is a good resource for those wanting to begin to explore the controversy surrounding video games. **However for anyone doing serious research, one should actually examine some of the research studies that have been done in this area rather than simply take the author's word that opposition to video games is simply due to an issue of generational divide.**

Please pay attention to the last sentence, a critique of the author's research.

