

MLA Format for Annotated Bibliographies

For an annotated bibliography, use standard MLA format for the citations, then add a brief abstract for each entry, including:

- 2 to 4 sentences to summarize the main idea(s) of the item, and
- 1 or 2 sentences to relate the article to your research topic, your personal experience, or your future goals (if part of your assignment) or to add a critical description.

The formatting for this sample bibliography is modeled on examples provided by Mary Dockray-Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Lesley University and

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th ed. New

York: Modern Language Association of America, 1999.

Basic MLA Style Format for an Annotated Bibliography

Format your citations in the same manner as for a normal reference list, then follow these instructions for adding an annotation.

1. Hanging Indents are required for citations in the bibliography, as shown below. That is, the first line of the citation starts at the left margin. Subsequent lines are indented 4 spaces.
2. As with every other part of an MLA formatted essay, the bibliography is double spaced, both within the citation and between them. Do not add an extra line between the citations.
3. The annotation is a continuation of the citation. Do not drop down to the next line to start the annotation.
4. The right margin is the normal right margin of your document.
5. In a long bibliography, organize your entries by topic, such as "Jordan Baker Materials".

Sample Annotated Bibliography

Jordan Baker Materials

Fryer, Sarah Beebe. "Beneath the Mask: The Plight of Daisy Buchanan." *Critical*

Essays on F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." Ed. Scott

Donaldson. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1984. 153-166. This is a feminist essay that argues that Daisy is trapped in cultural constructions of Rich Wife and Pretty Girl - she chooses the "unsatisfactory stability" of her marriage because of those constructions. Fryer's only mention of Jordan is a foil to Daisy - - "Like Jordan, Daisy is affected" (156).

Kerr, Frances. "Feeling Half-Feminine: Modernism and the Politics of Emotion in The Great Gatsby." *American Literature* 68 (1996): 405-31. A brilliant analysis of the homoerotics in the novel-- Nick's attraction to McKee and to Gatsby. Kerr thinks the tennis girl with sweat on her lip is Jordan (which I think is wrong); she notes that Jordan has more control over her emotions than the other women in the novel (Daisy and Myrtle). Kerr argues that Nick's narrative about his dumping her "leads the reader to believe that it is Jordan's indifference, shallowness, and dishonesty that prompt his move. The psychological subtext of Gatsby, however, suggests a motivation entirely different. Nick Carraway identifies with and feels most romantically drawn not to 'masculine' women but to 'feminine' men"(418).

Mandel, Jerome. "The Grotesque Rose: Medieval Romance and The Great

Gatsby." *Modern Fiction Studies* 34(1988): 541-558. Mandel argues that *Gatsby* follows many of the conventions of medieval romance, and analyzes East and West Egg as competing courts, Buchanan as a prince/Lord with Daisy as unattainable

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queen/fair lady. Gatsby and Nick are both construed as knights; Jordan is only mentioned in passing as a sort of attendant figure on Queen Daisy. This whole analysis seems somewhat farfetched.