Annotating Research Articles
Adapted from a handout by Dr. Sarah Twill, Wright State University

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations related to a particular topic or theme that include a brief descriptive and/or evaluative summary. The annotated bibliography can be arranged chronologically by date of publication or alphabetically by author, with citations to print and/or digital materials, such as, books, newspaper articles, journal articles, dissertations, government documents, pamphlets, web sites, etc., and multimedia sources like films and audio recordings.

Depending on your project or assignment, your annotations may do one or more of the following: summarize the article; access its accuracy, reliability, and/or purpose; reflect on how it fits within your project/assignment and how you will use it to shape your argument.

The following is a sample format you can use to summarize and paraphrase a research article:

In (year), (Author’s last names) conducted a study about (topic of research). The participants were/the setting was (e.g. “San Diego” or “large gift donors”). The authors found (results or findings of the research.) The authors concluded that (conclusion.) These results/findings are important to other scholars in the field because (reason or reasons why other scholars could benefit from the findings.)

For more information, the University of Southern California provides a helpful Annotated Bibliography guide.

Practice
Prepare to write an annotation by gathering the following information:

Author or authors:

Topic of research (refer to the abstract and introduction):

Participants/setting: (refer to the method/methodology section):

Findings: (refer to the results section):

Conclusions: (may also be called discussion):

Important to other scholars in the field because:

Finally, put the above all together into an annotation (remember to include a proper citation!):