



# The Annotated Bibliography

## First, what is an annotation?

An annotation is a brief summary of an article, book, Web site, or other type of publication. An annotation should give enough information to make a reader decide whether to read the complete work. In other words, what is the material about, and why is it useful? An annotated bibliography is an organized list of sources that includes both the source listed in proper format as directed by your professor and is followed by the annotation.

## Objective and Purpose

An annotated bibliography describes/ summarizes as well as examines the applicability of the author's conclusions to the research being conducted. In addition, it describes the author's main arguments and conclusions. An annotation may comment on the strengths and weaknesses of what is presented; however, the evaluative process should be rooted in a practice of academic collaboration and how the author's work can relate to your research (complementary or as a counter argument).

## Student example:

Hartnell, Anna. "When Cars Become Churches: Jesmyn Ward's Disenchanted America. An Interview." *Journal of American Studies*, vol. 50, no. 1, 2016, pp. 205-218.

This article includes an interview with Ward as well as some critical analysis from Hartnell. She focuses her article on the space and time of the memoir and Ward's early novel, *Salvage the Bones*. The core arguments are that Ward's work is a reflection of the place and time and that cars are a non-liminal space that allow for confession and communion, like a church. She also addresses the systematic racism that shapes both the memoir and reality. The interview with Ward also goes into detail about the form and structure of the memoir, her motivation, and using memoir as an escape. I want to focus my attention on Ward's interview and her motivations for writing the memoir in a non-linear fashion. She says that it just came out that way, and it didn't feel right any other way. As they mention, the memoir ends with the "heart" which connects to her motivation to keep her brother in the story as long as possible. This addresses my questions on healing trauma by keeping the memories of the dead alive. I would also like to use Hartnell's assessment of the system that causes a culture of fatalism to supplement my close reading of the memoir.