

Annotation Template:

_____, in his/her _____
(author's first and last name) (type of source: essay, article, webpage, book, etc and title)

(action verb: explains, argues, illustrates, demonstrates, etc)

that _____.
(the author's main argument)

He/she supports (or illustrates) his/her position by _____,
_____, and _____.
(list the evidence the author provides)

The purpose of the page is to _____.
(educate, persuade, sell a product, etc.)

This source is/is not reliable because _____,
_____, and _____
(explain what you learned about the source in your investigation)

The information in _____'s _____ is/is not
(author's last name) (genre: article, essay, short story, editorial, sermon, etc.)

useful to my research because _____.
(briefly but specifically explain why--this could be content-related and/or source-related).

SEE EXAMPLES BELOW

Examples:

On the webpage “Shakespeare’s Biography,” which is part of the website *Shakespeare Resource Center*, J.M. Pressley explains the major events in Shakespeare’s life, including his birth and death dates (April 23, 1564-April 23, 1616), his education, his marriage to Anne Hathaway and their three children, and his career as an actor and writer. Pressley points out that since record keeping was not extensive during Shakespeare’s time, much of the knowledge that exists about Shakespeare is pieced together. He uses specific details, including the fact that in Shakespeare’s will he left his wife his “second best bed,” in order to give the reader a clear overview of the important events in Shakespeare’s life. The *Shakespeare Resource Center* is a reliable source because the author has a degree in theater and specialized in Shakespeare. The site was last updated in October 2012, and the information on the site fits with the information contained in other sources about Shakespeare. Because my topic is the life of William Shakespeare, the background knowledge about his life that this source provides will be useful to my research.

If the source were not reliable and/or if you were not going to use it, you would explain that in the last part of the annotation:

On the webpage “Christopher Columbus,” which is part of the website *All About Explorers*, Lauren Zucker explains the major events in the life of Christopher Columbus, who, she claims, was born in 1492 in Genoa, Italy and died in 1506. She includes details about Columbus’s journey, including the “fact” that the people native to the new land Columbus found were fascinated by the explorers’ “cell phones and desktop computers.” Zucker uses dates and specific events in Columbus’s life to teach the reader about Columbus. Zucker holds a M.Ed. and is a middle and high school English teacher. Her real purpose in creating this site is to teach students how to be critical users of the Internet. While the site accomplishes its goal of being deceptive and providing false information, it is not helpful to my research, since I need accurate information about Columbus.