What is the relevance of an annotated bibliography?
In other words, why are we creating an annotated bibliography?

Objective

To discover, summarize, and evaluate 10 sources for the research paper

An annotated bibliography is a list of sources for your research paper. Like a Works Cited page, the sources are listed alphabetically by last name of the author (or by title, if no author) with a complete and correct MLA citation. The annotation that follows the works cited entry should complete the following:

- Summarize the author’s main claims or argument, and
- Evaluate the points that are relevant to your research

Steps for Completing the Assignment

Research: Using the library databases, find reliable sources focused on your topic and your main points of argument. Think rhetorically about your sources by considering each source’s degree of editorial review, stability, advocacy, and authority. The best sources for this research assignment will include peer-reviewed scholarly sources, public affairs sources, advocacy sources, and government sources, but evaluate each one to maintain your credibility as a writer. You may not use commercial sources. Do not Google the topic and find random sources from the Internet. You must have at least 10 scholarly, credible sources on the research topic.

Discover: After finding a source, read it and consider these questions while reading: Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? How does the information within the article relate to my novel? What is the goal of this source? Should you use it for your paper? If yes, continue with the next steps to include the source on your annotated bibliography. If not, find another source. Repeat this process for other sources.

Summarize and Evaluate: For each annotation, please write an evaluative paragraph using the following format.

1. Name of the author with a rhetorically accurate verb (e.g., argues, claims, explains) followed by a that clause reporting the author’s thesis.
   Ex. Terry Castle argues that the American school system is failing minorities.

2. A brief by accurate explanation of how the author develops or supports the thesis, usually in the same order as the main points in the source.
   Ex. Castle utilizes statistics showing the high dropout rates of minorities to demonstrate the severity of the problem. She pinpoints three major causes of minority failure in American schools: lack of role models, poor study skills, and environmental conditions.

3. A statement of the author’s purpose followed by an in order to phrase.
   Ex. Castle illustrates the severity of the problem in order to persuade the reader that the American school system must be overhauled.

4. An overall statement of the conclusions of the source.
   Ex. She concludes by suggesting that we rethink how we educate our minorities and provides the reader with two ways to rebuild the education system: recruit more minority teachers and provide students with an integrated curriculum.

Required Format: This typed paper must also follow these guidelines: double-spaced, 12-point Times or Times New Roman font, printed on one side of page only, MLA heading at top and title centered, and one-inch margins for text. Failure to do this will result in a 10-point deduction in your grade.
Annotated Bibliography


Mark Bracher counters previous critics’ ideological analyses of Keats’ “To Autumn” by claiming that the true point of ideology lies not factors such as distortion and elision but in the effects that these factors produce in human subjects. In order to prove his claim about the locus of ideology and move beyond a focus on cause and effect, Bracher applies reader-response analysis to the poem with attention to a collective reader consisting of a variety of perspectives that are shared among readers with no vested interest. To do this, he approaches the poem with a particularly psychoanalytic slant, exploring various aspects of Lacanian psychoanalysis experienced by the reader, including the symbolic order, the imaginary order, and desire for the Other. Bracher ultimately concludes that the significance of ideology in “To Autumn” lies in an attitude which rejects the mortality and suffering of the Real in order to transcend the Symbolic order and unify with the Other in the Imaginary order: the Romantic Ideology.


Betty Buchsbaum explores the connection between two poems written by Keats two years before his death and a lyric written by Wallace Stevens three years before his death in order to show that the former’s approach to death influenced the latter. Through her essay, Buchsbaum explores the idea of the “easeful death” expressed by both poets and the ways in which the two
poets speak to each other through their poetry. Buchsbaum eventually concludes that, despite the distinct contrast in age, both poets embraced their impending deaths through their poetry, though each embrace reflects a perspective unique to their age and experiences.


Joel Faflak argues that the Romantics invented psychoanalysis long before the big names of psychoanalysis of whom we commonly think when we use psychoanalysis as a basis for literary criticism. In this chapter, Faflak primarily discusses *The Fall of Hyperion*, though he does also discuss other Keats poems in his argument, in order to show that the Romantic exploration of the mind is much more that a precursor to a more sophisticated psychoanalytic study of the mind that will come later in history; the Romantics themselves, as evidenced by Keats’ *Hyperion*, made significant psychoanalytic advances through their poetry. Faflak concludes the chapter by claiming that it is Romantics who first placed the subject in a position to contemplate identity and the psychic world.


Kappel explains the arguments of past critics who had identified the immortality of the nightingale as either a generic immortality of the species or a symbolic immortality of the lyric that makes the poet immortal, and he counters those claims with a claim of his own: he argues for another aspect of the nightingale’s immortality that distinctly separates it from human mortality. The primary focus of Kappel’s argument is the seventh stanza of the poem, which he explains has led many critics to their varying interpretations of the nightingale’s immortality. Kappel first clarifies the basis for immortality and then analyzes the seventh stanza in order to show how previous critics misjudged the structure of the stanza, which then led them to the conclusions that he now challenges. He concludes that it is the nature of the nightingale that is immortal for Keats.
In this essay, Jacques Lacan discusses the aspects of his Mirror Stage. He explains the false sense of completeness that we all experience in the mirror stage and the fact that we create our Ideal-I, an image of completeness that we chase forever but can never attain because we will always have lack. Lacan further explains that it is in the mirror stage that we enact desire for the Mother/Other; however, this also eventually leads to the Symbolic Law of the Father. He concludes with a discussion about our eventual knowledge of our own mortality.


Shahid Najeeb claims that psychoanalysis is nothing more than an offshoot of religion, that it is merely another way through which humans contemplate the soul, God, and immortality. Using “Ode to a Nightingale,” Najeeb examines the ways in which both psychoanalysis and religion address the pain of human existence, sentience and the immortal soul (Soul Theory), and the idea of God in order to show that psychoanalysis, long viewed as at odds with religion, actually functions as a religion. She concludes that religion and psychoanalysis both evolve from an inherent need of human existence, though psychoanalysis does have some characteristics distinct from religion, specifically the way that psychoanalysis examines the soul and consciousness/unconsciousness.


James O’Rourke explores four different odes in his book with particular attention to the critical history of the poems as well as Keats’ varying persona in his poems. In the chapter
focused on “Ode to a Nightingale,” O’Rourke explores both the elusiveness of the nightingale as
well as the importance of sounds in the poem. O’Rourke first explores how earlier criticism
tended to focus on the ways that Keats’ lines allude to Shakespeare and and later criticism that
focused on the connection to Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. Ultimately, O’Rourke combines a
structuralist and deconstructionist evaluation of the poem in order to show the instability and
fluidity of Keats’ persona in the poem.


Ellie Ragland explains the connection between Freud and Lacan’s theories of
psychoanalysis and argues that, in returning to Freud, Lacan made some of Freud’s theories more
coherent and functional. The various chapters explore narcissism and the ego, psychosis, the
death drive, the body, and the ethics of desire in order to show how Lacan clarified many of
Freud’s concepts, but she also notes that there are still significant differences between Freud and
Lacan’s approaches, and both struggle to adequately address issues of gender and sexuality. The
most enlightening aspects of Ragland’s book for this research project are the chapters discussing
death drives and the ethics of desire.

Vendler, Helen. “The Experiential Beginnings of Keats’s Odes.” *Studies in Romanticism*, vol. 12, no. 3,

Helen Vendler argues that the experiential beginning of a poem is rarely the first stanza,
that poets often conceive of an idea that may become the middle or end of a poem and then craft
the poem around that concept. Using evidence from Keats’ other writings and from the odes
themselves, she applies this concept of the experiential beginning in order to show that Keats’
odes have a hidden beginning. Vendler concludes that each of the odes she discusses have
experiential beginnings that explain the true purpose of each ode and that failing to acknowledge
the experiential beginning can easily lead to a misreading of the odes.

Yihsuan, Tso. “Subversiveness, Fame and the Paine-Burk Debate in Keats’s Odes.” *Pennsylvania Library
Journal*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2010, pp. 162-83. EBSCOhost,
Tso Yihsuan claims that Keats’ poems express both his personal ambitions as well as his liberal political views through subversion. In analyzing three of Keats’ poems, Yihsuan shows how Keats interacts with and responds to both social and political issues of his culture. Yihsuan uses a new historicist approach in order to discuss the ways that Keats subverts classism and political censorship by exploring the ways that Keats’ culture interacts with three of his most notable poems: “To Psyche,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” and “Ode on a Grecian Urn.” Yihsuan ultimately concludes that Keats’ subversiveness is a direct result of his interaction with his culture, and it is only through the social, political, and historical context the modern reader can truly understand how Keats’ art interacts with and impacts his culture.