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| Title | **Annotation Analysis** |
| **Due Date** | **Monday** |
| Where to Post | Discussion Forum / Annotation Analysis |
| Subject | Your Name / Annotation Analysis |
| Points | 10 |
| Criteria | * On time, posted in the correct forum, correct subject line. Correct grammar, spelling and usage. * Demonstrates understanding of annotations by evaluating two annotations, as listed in the assignment. |
| Objective | To identify the elements needed when writing an effective descriptive and critical annotation. |

#### **Step One:**

During the next few weeks, you will be writing annotations for the different sources you select for your final project, the Pathfinder. While annotations can take different forms, your annotations should be both **descriptive and critical.**

A good annotation includes the following elements:

1. A correctly formatted bibliographic citation (In this class we are using MLA)
2. Pertinent information about the author(s)
3. Overview of the author’s central idea or main argument
4. Note about the intended audience (i.e. who is most likely going to read such a document?)
5. Point of view/ bias/ slant of the author
6. Comments on the usefulness of the source to your research and its relationship to other sources you may have seen (how would you compare it to the other sources on this topic? What makes it special; how does it differ?)
7. Summary of the author’s findings, results, and conclusions
8. Notes on special features (e.g. illustrations, charts, glossary, maps, special indexes, etc.)

#### **Step Two:**

Below are four annotations examples. Select TWO of the four annotations and evaluate their effectiveness based on the elements described above.

For each of two annotations (below), answer the following questions about the annotations:

1. Is the annotation ***descriptive* (does it tell what the book or website is about)?**
2. **Or** is the annotation ***critical* (does it evaluate the usefulness of the book or website to your topic)?** Why do you think the annotation is descriptive or critical or both.
3. If you were doing research, would this annotation give you enough information to determine whether the source would be useful to you? If not, what is missing?
4. What do you think could be added which would make the annotation more effective?

#### **Step 3:**

Write a comment for each of the two annotations you have chosen. Be specific in your comment and use examples to support your decision as to whether or not an annotation is descriptive, critical or both. One way to do this is to copy and paste the annotations into a Word document, then bold, italicize or use color to highlight the phrases or sentences in the annotations to make your point.

#### **Step 4:**

**Post your comments on the two annotations below.**

**ANNOTATION EXAMPLES:**

##### Example 1

Spellman, Andrew. "Wrestling with America: Media, National Images, and the Global Village." *Journal of Popular Culture* 49.4 (2010): 83-97. Print.

Spellman is Head of American Studies at King Alfred's College, Winchester. He treats the influence of American television on British culture and notes other influences like The National Inquirer. Spellman does not believe these influences result in cultural domination, but serve to reinforce national identity. He believes the cultural influences between the U.S. and Britain are reciprocal. This article will contribute to my treatment of American cultural influences in post-war Europe.

##### Example 2

McKinley HealthCenter. *Caffeine*. 2009. 23 Aug. 2010. Web.

This is a web site which discusses the ingredient caffeine. On the site many questions are answered about caffeine including its effects and safety, reducing caffeine consumption, and whether or not it helps with studying. The amount of caffeine in common foods is listed in a table at the bottom of the page including various types of coffee and teas, chocolate, cocoa, and soft drinks. Medications that contain caffeine are also listed. The page is well-organized, contains useful information, and includes appropriate documentation.

##### Example 3

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Baker, Ben R. *Jihad vs. Democracy: How Capitalism and Tribalism are Reshaping the World*. New York: Ballentine Books, 2006. Print.

In this book, Ben Baker discusses globalism, tribalism, democracy, and capitalism. Part I discusses McWorld and its invasion throughout the entire world. Barber writes that this global overtaking has been accomplished through music, various service industries, and the media. Part II focuses on Jihad, in opposition to McWorld, as people and countries struggle for their own individual and cultural identities. Part III describes the clash of McWorld and Jihad and the resulting disorder. Capitalism and democracy are debated as working against each other. Two appendices are included at the end of the book, The first appendix describes energy use and population by country in 2005 and the second lists the twenty-two countries' top grossing films in 2005. The book also includes an extensive notes section. The book was well-organized and the material covered presents globalization in a new way.

##### Example 4

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Jones, Frances Kobrin, Linda J. Stims, and Christina Counter. "Non-family Living and the Erosion of Traditional Family Orientations Among Young Adults." *American Sociological Review* 61 (2011): 541-554. Print.

The authors, researchers at the Heritage Foundation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that non-family family living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of non-family family living.

*NOTE: All of the publications listed above are fictional and the citations are meant only for example.*