The Abstract
vs.
The Annotated Bibliography

What's the difference?
The Abstract

• A summary of a work’s content

• Like all summaries, abstracts cover the main points of a piece of writing

• Abstracts help you decide whether an article is relevant for your purposes
The Annotated Bibliography

• A list of sources that provides publication information and a short description of each source called an *annotation*

• Some annotations merely describe the content and scope of the source

• Others evaluate the source’s authority, currency, and relevance to a researcher’s purpose

- Please Note: APA, 6th ed. encourages use of the DOI (digital object identifier) if available. DOI is a way of uniquely identifying documents, publications and other resources on the Internet rather than using a URL, which can change over time.
Example: Author’s Abstract

Sparking broad public conversations about the film's purpose and meaning, Brokeback Mountain has solidified its status as a significant cultural artifact. Sharing the sublime object's formal structure, the film symbolically represents the collective trauma that would otherwise result from directly witnessing homophobic repression and violence; yet because the film aesthetically induces a feeling of pleasure, audiences transcend the terror that would ordinarily accompany such encounters. I call this effect “the queer sublime.” Responses to Brokeback Mountain further mediate audiences' experiences of the queer sublime and thus reveal the ideologically charged conditions that govern speech relating to queer desire in a homophobic culture.
Example: Annotation

This article discusses the broad public debate on homosexuality sparked by the film, Brokeback Mountain. The author’s claim that the unrestricted conversation engaged in by the general population, due to the aesthetically pleasing experience of the film, helped reveal the connection between homophobia and its violent consequences. *(summary & scope in your own words).* Well-documented and convincingly argued, this article supports my thesis that sympathetic representations of homosexuality in the media lead to greater tolerance and acceptance of gays and lesbians in society *(evaluation of article’s reliability & authority).* Author Dr. Davin Grindstaff teaches at Georgia State University; other publications also focus on rhetorical studies, with particular attention to identity construction/reconstruction and queer theory *(author’s credibility).*
Online Resources

More information on Annotated Bibliographies from authoritative sources:

• [Cornell University Library](http://library.cornell.edu)

• [Purdue University OWL](http://owl.purdue.edu) (Online Writing Lab)