Sample Annotated Bibliography

**Working Thesis:** In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare uses imagery of religious and earthly beauty as a metaphor for the overwhelming nature of Romeo and Juliet’s love for one another; religious imagery captures the heightened nature and timelessness of their love, while the earthly symbols foreshadow its limited life and tragic end.

**Citation 1**

In this article, David M. Bergeron analyzes Shakespeare’s imagery of sickness versus imagery of health in *Romeo & Juliet*. He points out numerous references in the play to poison and medicine; poison that sickens the healthy and medicine that makes the sick well. In Bergeron’s analysis, poison overcomes medicine in the play, thus its tragic end. David M. Bergeron holds a Ph.D. in English from Vanderbilt University and currently is Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas, where he was a professor of English for 34 years. The University of Kansas website lists his research emphasis as “Early Modern (Shakespeare).” Because of his expertise in Shakespearean literature, he should be a reliable author to write about the play. Bergeron bases his analysis off the text of the play, as well as many other scholarly articles listed in the References section. This article was published in The *CLA Journal*, which is a peer-reviewed quarterly publication put out by the College Language Association. This article supports my analysis of Shakespeare’s use of earthly imagery to symbolize the tragic end of the play with the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. Bergeron discusses two types of earthly imagery – the poison and the medicine – and how poison overcoming medicine foreshadows the end by reflecting the temporary and doomed nature of the human body and human relationships.

**Citation 2**

Vyvyan’s chapter on “Love in *Romeo and Juliet*” talks about how Shakespeare uses religious imagery, such as angels, pilgrims, and saints to represent the love of Romeo and Juliet. Vyvyan claims that this religious imagery shows that Romeo is in more than earthly love with Juliet – he is “spiritually altered”
by her. Therefore, even though they die at the end of the play, their love transcends their earthly bodies.

John Vyvyan was a British writer whose degree is in archeology. However, he later wrote three books on Shakespeare. I was uncertain if this is a credible article since he does not have a degree in literature; however, he was offered a visiting lectureship on Shakespeare studies at the University of New York, which would mean he is considered to be knowledgeable on Shakespeare. His three books of criticism on Shakespeare’s works are still in print. This book was also chosen to be part of the EBSCO *ebook collection*. EBSCO is a well-known company in the academic information industry and has served libraries for over 70 years. I plan to use Vyvyan’s insights on the religious imagery of love to support that part of my thesis. This will allow me to draw a contrast with the earthly imagery also present in *Romeo and Juliet* that represents the mortal, perishable nature of humans and earthly things. The religious imagery demonstrates the everlasting nature of their love despite their deaths.

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**Format for English 101 & English 102 Annotated Bibliography**

1. **MLA Header:** Include a standard MLA header in the top-right corner of every page with your last name and page number.
2. **Standard MLA Format:** Double space the entire annotated bibliography, and use a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman. Use 1-inch margins.
3. **Standard MLA Heading:** Begin with the normal MLA heading (your name, instructor's name, course section, and date (in the top-left corner)
4. **Title:** On the next line, title your paper Annotated Bibliography and center it in the middle of the page
5. **Working Thesis:** Then include your working thesis statement that you're going to use in your research paper (and your annotated bibliography).
6. **Bibliography:** List MLA citations for at least 5 sources and arrange them in alphabetical order.
7. **Annotations:** Under each citation, write a paragraph about each source that includes:
   a. Several sentences summarizing what the source said. **Hint:** Ask yourself what the main point of this source was and what conclusions the author came to.
   b. Then several sentences evaluating the credibility of the source - more info at [Annotated Bibliography website](http://library.sccsc.edu/SubjectGuides/english/annotated-bibliography.asp#evaluating).
   c. Finally, a sentence or two about how you are going to use this source to support your thesis when you write your research paper. **Hint:** Ask yourself how this work is useful or relevant to your topic? What did you take away from the source that you could use in your argument?