Annotated Bibliography One: Pet Therapy on College Campuses

Jane A. Doe
Middle Georgia State University

An “Author Note,” such as the one listed on the OWL Purdue website, is optional for undergraduate class papers. However, if requested by the professor, you can include information such as name of professor, course name and section number, and time (all starting two double spaced lines below the college name).

The title should be in the upper half of the page, followed by the author’s full name and the college name. The entire paper should be double spaced in *Times New Roman* 12 font.

**Note:** This printout is double-sided, but actual annotated bibliographies need to be single-sided.**

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Nursing professors discuss freshmen stress caused by new environments and relationships. The article reviews previous research of pets in therapeutic relationships with humans. To investigate the benefit of pet therapy in healthy populations, the authors questioned college students during Health Issues meetings using questionnaires, presentations, discussions, and pet interactions. As many students had owned pets before, they were positively impacted by pet therapy and desired this social support.

This article is a useful source for anyone researching the benefit of pet therapy with college freshmen as there is limited research in this area. The study’s weaknesses include the lack of diverse students as well as subjective and self-reported responses. The authors cite national journals as their references. The authors arrive at conclusions from questionnaires, which were vetted by two PhD researchers. The article lends evidence to what most would say is common knowledge, that “A dog is a man’s best friend.”

Annotated bibliographies contain two main parts: a descriptive section (regarding content, main points, and ideas of the article) and an evaluative section (strengths, weaknesses, reliability, quality, relevance) about the article; you can also include your reaction to the article. Note that you can use abstracts to help you summarize the descriptive section; however, abstracts will not help you write the evaluative section. Find and read the actual abstract about the pet therapy article in GALILEO (Ebscohost) to compare it with the annotated bibliography above.

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