

## MLA Style Annotated Bibliography Examples

**1. Thompson, E. P.** *The Making of the English Working Class*. Vintage Books, 1966.

Thompson's book examines the formation of working-class identity in England during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Rather than treating class as a fixed economic category, Thompson traces how shared experiences, political movements, and cultural traditions shaped collective consciousness over time. Drawing on pamphlets, court records, and personal correspondence, the author presents a detailed social history grounded in primary sources. This work is useful for a paper on labor history because it frames class as a lived experience and provides historical context for later industrial and political developments.

**2. Sontag, Susan.** *Regarding the Pain of Others*. Picador, 2003.

In this essay-length work, Sontag explores how images of violence and suffering influence public perception and moral response. She analyzes war photography across different historical periods and questions the assumption that exposure to suffering automatically produces empathy. The text combines cultural criticism with philosophical reflection, drawing on examples from journalism, art, and history. This source supports research on visual culture by offering a critical framework for understanding how images shape collective memory and ethical judgment without relying on purely theoretical language.

**3. Carruthers, Mary.** *The Book of Memory: A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture*. Cambridge UP, 2008.

Carruthers investigates how memory functioned as a disciplined intellectual practice in medieval Europe rather than a passive mental process. The book examines rhetorical training, religious texts, and educational traditions to explain how structured memory techniques shaped reading and writing practices. Carruthers grounds her analysis in historical texts while maintaining clear explanations of complex concepts. This source is relevant for research on medieval literature or intellectual history because it connects textual interpretation to broader cultural habits of thought and learning.