ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations for books, periodicals, documents, articles, etc. Each citation or reference is followed by a brief paragraph describing the article, who wrote it, and how you are going to apply it to your paper.

Core Elements:

Annotated bibliographies should be formatted in the same way that a "works cited" or "references" page would be. They should contain accurate citations, be organized alphabetically, and contain a hanging indent. Brief annotations should then be written beneath each citation in present tense and should contain the following elements:

- A summary of the central theme or scope of the article
- Discussion of the author's (and his or her source's) credibility and background
- Discussion of the intended audience
- An explanation of how the source will be used in your own paper

Example (with MLA Citation):

Below is a short example of how a citation with an annotation would appear in an annotated bibliography. Please note that most annotated bibliographies are double-spaced throughout their entirety and use Times New Roman size 12. For the sake of space, this example has been single-spaced and uses Calibri size 10:

Welch, Richard F. "The Green and the Blue." *Civil War Times*, vol. 45, no. 8, 2006, pp. 22-30. *Academic Search Premier*.

Civil War Times is a historical periodical with contributions from historians and Civil War experts. The article is intended for anyone with an interest in the Civil War and the history of Irish Americans. After providing some background information about Irish immigrants, the author discusses Irish-American soldiers in the war, some of the difficulties they faced, and how they proved their patriotism. I might use this source in examining what caused ethnic prejudice against Irish immigrants as well as how the Civil War helped them overcome prejudice.

Unique Formatting:

The example above presents general formatting suggestions. However, please be aware that many professors and publications have their own formatting standards for annotated bibliographies.