Annotated Bibliography Assignment

A bibliography is simply a list of sources dealing with your topic. You will need to collect a variety of sources--chapters of books, selections from anthologies, articles in professional/scholarly journals or magazines or newspapers, etc.—to write your I-search paper.

**Sources:** Your final bibliography must include 5 or more items. FIVE is the absolute minimum. Failure to meet this requirement will result in a severe grade deduction. Plan to collect more than the number of sources required. Rather than using the first 5 sources you find, be selective. By at least skimming several sources before choosing the best 5 to annotate, you will create a stronger Annotated Bibliography and, ultimately, a stronger Research Paper.

Use the MLA guide in your Little, Brown Handbook to write correct citations for each of your sources. List these sources alphabetically.

**Writing Annotations:** You will write an annotation for each of your sources. This process will help you to understand the source, to decide if the information is useful to you, and to avoid plagiarizing the writer's words in your own paper. Each annotation should include the following, in this order:

1. **Cite the Author and the Title of the Text.**
2. **The thesis of the source.** This is more than just the subject of the source; it is the point that the author makes about the subject.
3. **A summary of the supporting evidence or arguments.** The summary should be concise; approximately three to four sentences is an appropriate length, although longer or more complicated sources may require longer annotations. This summary should include important examples that develop the thesis, but should not include any information that is unrelated to the thesis. You may NOT use quotations from the work.
4. **You should follow the brief summary with a sense of what is valuable in this source (evaluate its usefulness for a paper) and HOW you will use it in your I-search paper.**
5. **Conclude your paragraph with a critique of the article’s strengths and weaknesses.** What are the author’s credentials and qualifications? Why is this source trustworthy? How is it relevant to your topic/thesis?

**Format:**

- Follow general MLA guidelines for paper format and see reverse side.
- Each entry should begin with the complete citation, formatted according to MLA guidelines (double-spaced, etc.).
- Immediately following the citation, beginning on a new line, provide the annotation in the form of one, **single-spaced paragraph.** Indent this paragraph five spaces from the left margin. Only the author's last name or the title of a work is thus ever at the left margin.
- Keep your summaries, evaluations and critiques to one paragraph for each entry, please.
- Be sure you use no more than 1 source for any category, except scholarly journals/professional magazines.

(See sample entries on the next page, courtesy of Brandy Martinez & Lilly Bullard.)
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The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is very informative about the education and skills needed that are necessary for a career in architecture. According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 1 in 4 architects are self-employed. Experience for this profession is pushed during studies because of the fierce competition. The OOH seems to be a reliable source of information that is both recent and relevant. It should be a good source to use for general information for my paper as well as specific information that can help me decide on whether or not I want to go to school for as long as it takes and study as hard as I need to in order to become an architect.


<http://www.bis/oco/ocos069.htm> (courtesy of Lilly Bullard.)

This article gives an overview of the nature of the work, giving a general idea of all that being a secondary teacher entails, the working conditions, the employment of teachers, the training required, the other qualifications needed to become a certified teacher, and the advancements that have been made. Also included are the average earnings and the job outlook for teachers in the next ten years. Overall, I found it very informative and fairly recent. I thought it covered most of the mechanical things I would need to know in considering a job in education. These will help give me an idea of exactly what I need to get done before entering the classroom and a prediction for what the need for teachers will be by the time I have earned my degree.

Note that each annotation above is about as brief as can be. Longer annotations that thoroughly summarize, assess and evaluate the source will receive a better grade than those that don’t.