MLA-format for Annotated Bibliographies
(from Leslie University Library’s website,
http://www.lesley.edu/library/guides/citation/MLAanno.pdf
and the Brad Matthies article,
modified and with additional information by
Laurel Lacroix)

For an annotated bibliography, use standard MLA format for the citations (alphabetical by author’s last name or, if there is no author listed, by the first important word in the title – using the real word for the symbol [i.e.” #2 Blue Dye” would be listed as if it were “Number Two Blue Dye”]). Then include a brief abstract for each entry, including the following, adapted from


1-2 sentences: Claim of the source – is it topical, timely, and relevant to your project? How and why? Is the source’s presentation of the claim clear and reasonable or is the language motivationally biased? If so, what are the biases? You may consider appeals as types of biases.

1-2 sentences: Role of the claimant – is the author clearly identifiable? Can you establish her or his credibility? How? Is there any reason to suspect bias on the author’s part (philosophical, political, religious, cultural)?

1-2 sentences: Information backing the claim – is there any? What is it? Is it verifiable? Anecdotal? Relevant to the claim? Is it testable? Can it be independently verified through another source not related to this one?

1-2 sentences: Conclusion – what is your conclusion regarding the source? What is its potential value to your research project?

This is a LIST – do no put page breaks or extra returns anywhere. You must complete and turn in 20 entries for this assignment. For each entry less than the number required, your grade for this assignment will be reduced by 10 points.

So, an entry would look as follows:
King, Jr., Martin Luther. “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” Milliken University Writing Center. 24 May 2002. 28 August 2005.<http://faculty.millikin.edu/~moconner/writing/king1a.html>. King’s overall claim is that merely believing that something is wrong or unjust is not enough. One must be willing to act upon one’s belief openly and honestly for unselfish reasons. He uses a variety of appeals to manipulate his audience’s responses to his claims, especially stressing syllogistic, and therefore potentially simplistic, logical structures in which the reader supplies the missing information. King uses religious language and references to connect with his audience by building his ethos as a patient, reasonable, righteous man. His support for his claims consists of both anecdotal and verifiable evidence related to his claims, ranging from paraphrases of source materials to specific events, the descriptions and conclusions of which a reader may confirm through simple research. This source may be useful in establishing a basis for discussion of the relevance of the public role in pursuing my solution to the problem of race-related economic disparity in the United States of America.

The King entry would appear in an alphabetical list of entries, before


which would appear before


Each of these entries, too, would have an annotation responding accurately and effectively to the prompt.