Our next assignment asks you to prepare an annotated bibliography on your semester topic. An annotated bibliography is an organized list of sources that includes the sources’ full bibliographic citation in MLA format, followed by an “annotation,” or description. Appropriate scholarly sources include books and articles from peer-reviewed journals.

Generally, annotated bibliographies offer the following information:

1. a review of literature on a particular subject
2. an illustration of the quality of the research the writer has done
3. a useful example of the types of sources available
4. a description of other items on a topic that may be of interest to a reader
5. an exploration of the subject for further research
6. a useful way for writers to begin organizing a longer research project

An annotated bibliography offers an arranged list of bibliographic entries, much like a list of works cited. The bibliography is organized alphabetically by the first word, which is typically the author’s last name. Each entry is followed by an annotation that ranges in length depending on the purpose and the audience. Annotations are written in a concise, informative manner. Remember to use “review language” in each sentence of your annotation (use those “author tags” and introductory phrases, please). All or part of the following items may be described in an annotation:

- the author's name, credentials, and background
- the usefulness of the text
- any limitations the text may have
- the audience of the text
- the methods (research) and their evaluation used in the text
- reliability of the text
- a short synopsis and possible conclusions the author is drawing
- your reaction to the text
- how and where you will use this source in your research paper

Your annotated bibliography needs to contain at least ten scholarly sources. Make the list balanced in terms of sources used and perspectives covered in those sources. List sources alphabetically, and provide an annotation for each source that is 120-200 words in length; include all parts of the items described above in the bulleted list. Make the annotations as useful as possible. Complete a double-entry journal for each source (minimum of three entries in each journal) and turn it in with the assignment. Use MLA documentation style, and format the assignment according to MLA formatting guidelines.
Examples of annotated bibliographies:

http://www.garts.latech.edu/owl/documentat/annotatebib.htm This annotated bibliography is formatted in MLA style. It is a good example to follow (even though it gives only the first page of a longer document).

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/general/gl_annotatedbibEX.html Here you can get more information about annotated bibliographies. At the bottom of the entry, click on “Annotated Bibliography Example.” The instructions in the example are formatted in the form of a bibliography.

http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/mugford/bib.htm This bibliography is a complete assignment from an ENGL 1010 class that’s a bit rudimentary but still useful as a comprehensive example. Note the highlighted “action verbs” in almost each sentence of the annotations. See Graf and Birkenstein, p. 37, for a long list of useful verbs!