Writing Annotated Bibliographies

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to book, articles, websites, and other documents, followed by a short paragraph that describes and evaluates the source. The purpose is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. What is the main idea of this source?
2. What is the author trying to do?
3. Who do you think the author is writing for? Who is his intended audience?

Combine the Answers:

The author is focusing on the *Works Progress Administration*, and both the pros and cons are discussed in an easy to understand format. He is trying to give unbiased information to the general high school readers.

Answer the next 2 questions:

1. What parts of the subject does the author emphasize or de-emphasize?
2. What does the author assume about the topic or audience?

Combine the answers:

The author emphasizes why the WPA was needed, what it did for the economy, and what it sponsored (artists and writers). He assumes that the reader has some background information about the New Deal and its programs.

Answer the last 2 questions:

1. Are there any obvious omissions that seem to be important to the topic?
2. Is there any bias or slant?

Combine the answers:

The author gives the reader general information. He seems to assume that his audience knows a little about the topic, and he doesn’t overload you with unnecessary information.

Be sure to use the MLA citation format for your citation, and alphabetize by the first letter. Remember to combine all sources together as well as author and title citations.