What is an annotated bibliography?
What is an Annotated Bibliography?

- Annotation = a summary/evaluation
- Annotated Bibliography = a list resources followed by a brief summary of each source
What do I do I include when writing an annotation?

1. The type of source (song, poem, book, website, journal article, diary entry, newspaper article etc)

2. How was the source used in your project?

3. How did it help you to understand your topic?

**Approx. 2-4 sentences in length**

This biography of Daisy Bates made me more aware of what it felt like to experience opposition to integration. It also gave me details about the growing role of the NAACP in the 1950’s and 1960’s.

Identifies the source  How source was used  How it helped
1. Remember, the purpose of an annotated bib is to assess its value to your research...NOT A FULL SUMMARY

2. If it is likely the source could be debated as primary OR secondary... use the annotation to explain why you categorized it as primary or secondary (otherwise just state the type of source)

3. The NHD Contest Rule Book states that annotations “must explain how the source was used and how it helped you understand your topic.”...again don’t recount what the source said in detail
What does this look like when finished?


This secondary source provided quality background information on Benjamin Franklin.

This base of knowledge helped us to proceed in our research and decide which areas of Franklin's life we would focus on.


This encyclopedia article gave me a detailed overview of the life of Rosa Parks. With this source I gained a better understanding of why Rosa Parks refused to move her seat on that infamous bus. I know understand there were many events that led up to her courageous stand.


This reference source provided me with a timeline of the Civil Rights Movement along with key initiatives. It gave me greater insight to how widespread the effort was to desegregate throughout the United States and just how many events it took to make change.