How to Write an Annotated Bibliography

Complete the following steps then arrange in alphabetical order by the Authors’ last names.

1. Write a standard bibliography entry. Use the Oxford CBLibrary guide or access Citemaker to help (via the Libguide)
2. Now write the annotation by following these 3 steps:
   a. A summary of the source: what are the main arguments? What topics are covered? If someone asked you what the source was about, what would you say?
   b. An assessment of the source: is the source relevant to your research? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is it reliable information? Is it biased, objective? What is the goal of the source?
   c. A reflection of the source: how does it fit into your research? Was the source helpful? Does it change your perspective of your topic? How can you use this source in your research?

Example:

Almond, S., Candy Freak, New York, Harper Collins, 2004

Summary:
In Candy Freak, Almond presents a solid history of the candy industry in 20th century America. After describing his love of candy and chocolate in particular, Almond takes the reader on a tour of candy factories across America while discussing how three large corporations (Hershey, M&M/Mars, and Nestle) managed to squeeze out hundreds of candy brands that were produced regionally in America.

Assessment:
This source provides a basic understanding of the history of candy but doesn’t go much further than that. The author’s humourous tone makes it interesting to read and also provides some insight in the author’s perspective (he seems a bit biased against the big three candy corporations). The information seems reliable but Almond does not provide a bibliography for his book so the reader should take into consideration while reading. Almond’s personal tours through candy factories and conversations with candy makers do lend reliability to his work.

Reflection:
This source will work well for my basic understanding of corporate influence in the free market. I can use this source in my introduction but it doesn’t provide much beyond the general. However, Candy Freak does provide a possible model for an explanation of how ‘mum and dad’ stores have been supplanted by large corporations in the United States. It may offer insight into how the drink industry and food industry have evolved over the last 100 years.