The following questions will help you get started in using a secondary source for your research project. Your answers will help you write your annotated bibliography, and will help you decide how to incorporate this source into your research paper.

1. Is this an appropriate, academic, college-level source? (i.e., did you find it at the Brooklyn College library and/or through the library databases? Was it originally published in print, even if you found it through an online database?) If not, please check with your instructor to make sure it is an acceptable source for your research project.

2. What kind of source is this – an entire book, book chapter, journal article, newspaper article, etc.?

3. Create a bibliographic entry in correct MLA style for this source, and write it here. See the index on page 379 of Diana Hacker’s *A Writer’s Reference* for help creating the appropriate entry.

4. Summarize the thesis/argument of this source in a few sentences. What point is the author of this book/article trying to get across?
5. Copy down a couple of the most useful/relevant/important quotations from this source, and be sure to note the page numbers. (You might need to excerpt from longer sentences/paragraphs in order to shorten the quote to just the most relevant parts.)

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6. What do you agree with in this source? What do you disagree with?

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7. How do you plan to use this source to answer your research question and prove your thesis? What types of useful information does this source contain? (Possibilities include, but are not limited to, historical background, statistics, interviews, an argument you agree with, a useful counter-argument, etc.)

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