MLA Format for Annotated Bibliography Entries

An annotation is an abstract or a summary of the material to be analyzed. It should be written in a few sentences, describing the essential details of a book or article. Annotated bibliographies should be double-spaced, including between entries. Following the bibliographic entry (standard MLA format), the annotation should provide the following information:

1. An explanation of the main purpose of the work
2. A description of the contents (major issues or points)
3. The possible audience for the work
4. Any special features (i.e. well-known authorities, case studies, etc.)
5. Any defect, weakness, or bias; or relevance of article to the research topic

Example 1:

Bernel notes that Racine's Andromache is a tragedy guided by love, not by the intervention of the gods. He also concedes that Andromache is accountable for the death of the other three main characters. Admiring Racine's structure in Andromache, he further concludes that the character's free will adds excitement to the play. Last of all, Bernel discusses in detail the different aspects of the production of the play. The terminology used in the complex analysis suggests that it is geared for readers already schooled in French theater.

Example 2:

Eggenschwiler interprets the scholar gypsy's infinite quest as an element of the logic of the poem. He suggests that the shepherd and the speaker (both representing a modern man) will fail because they "seek peacefulness" instead of "peacefully seeking knowledge", as does the scholar. The article, which conjures refreshingly unique conclusions about the poem, appeals to scholars, but is also accessible to general readers of poetry.