Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) 18th Edition

Annotated Bibliography Format

General Formatting

- **Alphabetical Order:** Entries are listed alphabetically by the author's last name (or by title if no author is listed).
- **Spacing:** Double-spaced throughout, with single spacing *within* an entry if the annotation is long (though double-spacing is common for high school).
- **Indentation:** Use a **hanging indent** for the bibliographic entry (the first line is left aligned, and subsequent lines are indented 0.5 inches).
- **Annotation Placement:** The annotation follows the citation. It can be a new, indented paragraph or placed directly after the citation in brackets, depending on the depth required (a new paragraph is common for high school).

Core Citation Elements (Bibliography Format)

The core citation uses periods to separate the major elements and includes a hanging indent. Note that **place of publication is generally no longer required** in the 18th edition for books.

Source Type	Example Format
Book	Last name, First name. *Title of Book: Subtitle*. Publisher, Year of Publication.
Journal Article	Last name, First name. "Title of Article." *Journal Title* Volume, no. Issue (Year): Page Range. URL or Database Name.

Annotation Content

The annotation is a brief paragraph (usually 100–200 words) that immediately follows the citation. It should typically cover:

1. **Summary:** A brief description of the source's main argument, topic, or scope.
2. **Evaluation:** An assessment of the source's authority, bias, and reliability (e.g., Is the author an expert? Is it a primary or secondary source?).
3. **Relevance:** An explanation of how the source will be used in the student's research or how it relates to their specific topic.

Example of Structure:

Smith, John. *The Evolution of Dual Federalism in America*. University Press, 2022.

The author, a political science professor at State University, traces the shift from a 'layer cake' model of federalism to the 'marble cake' of cooperative federalism. This book is a highly reliable secondary source as it provides extensive historical data and judicial analysis, specifically focusing on landmark Supreme Court cases that redefined state and federal power boundaries from the Civil War era to the mid-20th century. I will use Chapter 4 to argue that Supreme Court rulings, not legislative acts, have been the most significant driver of changing federal-state relations.
