Ways to start annotations instead of “I used this source…”:

- This letter helped me...
- By reading this _____
- The explanation given by this author...
- Use the person’s or author’s name ie: John Doe stated in this ....
- From this ________,
- The opinion shared by ...
- Receiving a reply to my ....
- The recording of ...
- The information in this documentary was useful because...
- Photographs from this ...
- An important part of understanding _____ was shared in this
- By reading...
- Many examples of ...
- Interviewing _____ gave us...
- Start the entry with a powerful quote from the source and then explain
- In this _____ we were able to analyze
- Recent information about_____ was shared in this
- With this speech, we were able to
- We contacted
- Through the viewing of this documentary...
- While explaining the ....
- I gained knowledge of ...
- We gained information about ...
- A short summary of ____ was shared in this ...
- The purpose of this ____ was to ...
- By reading this _____, I was able to
- While gathering information from this _____, I discovered

There are hundreds more possibilities. Be creative!!

In your annotations you are analyzing sources, drawing conclusions, looking for significance, making connections to other events and time periods, interpreting findings, placing your topic in history, and explaining the impacts of your topic in history on economics, government, politics, social issues, cultural ideas, business, inventions, religions, agriculture, education, family, science, technology, etc… Be specific, but thorough in your annotations.

Enjoy the experience. You are really “doing” history!!