

Evaluating Sources

Author	
Title of article	
Journal/Book title	
Date	
Pages	
URL	

Content/Coverage Does the source cover my topic?	Not at all	Indirectly	Superficially	Right on target
How deeply does the source cover my topic?	Fluff	Some information	Good overview	Deep
Authority Can I determine who created/published the information?	No	Maybe	Yes	
Can I find out anything about the author?	No	Maybe	Yes	
What authority does this source have?	No author, no credentials	Intended for general reader; author is not a specialist.	Intended for the intelligent general audience; author may be a specialist	Intended for a scholarly audience; author is an expert
Currency Is the material current?	No	Yes	Maybe	Doesn't Matter
Objectivity Does the material have bias?	Clearly wants to persuade to 1 point of view	Advocates a position, but remains objective	Neutral, appears to present all facts fairly	
Accuracy Is the information presented accurate?	No	Maybe	Yes	
Purpose Who is the audience?	General public	Scholars	Students	Other?
What is the purpose?	Sell	Persuade	Inform	Other?
Relevancy Does the source meet the criteria for the assignment?	No	Maybe	Yes	
How would I use this source?	Throw it out.	Background and clues, but not in bibliography.	Useful as overview. Might include in bibliography	Supports my points. Include in Works Cited.