



LOCATING AND EVALUATING SOURCES

It's always important to carefully verify any information you plan to use in an academic paper. Use the guide below to assess different aspects of the sources you find and determine if they are of sufficient quality to include in your research.

	Source #1	Source #2	Source #3
<p>Title of Article What does the title tell you about the content of the article? Is it sensationalized? Academic-sounding?</p>			
<p>Publication What can you tell about the publication? What about the individual or organization behind the publication?</p>			
<p>Audience Who is the intended audience? How can you tell? (The more specific you can get here, the more useful it will be.)</p>			
<p>Author What are their credentials? How reliable are they and how can you tell?</p>			
<p>Currency What is the date? Is there a date?</p>			
<p>Relevance How relevant is the resource to your topic? How might it support your argument?</p>			
<p>Objectivity Look for potential bias: how objective is the content? How can you tell?</p>			
<p>References What kinds of sources are used? Do <i>they</i> seem reliable? How are they cited? (In online articles this might look different than in an academic paper. For example, the author may simply link to sources.)</p>			
<p>OVERALL General assessment of source – how reliable is it and how might it be useful in writing about your topic? Remember that context – and guidelines provided by your instructor – matter. What works for one paper might not work for another.</p>			