

Evaluating Sources of Information: Exercise

Investigate a news story or article and answer the questions below.

1. Find a News Story

Google a topic that you want to learn more about.

Select NEWS at the top of the Google results page and choose the first link.

2. Evaluate the News Story

Read the article in the link and briefly answer these questions about it:

GENERAL	
What is the URL of the website?	
What is the title of the article?	
Which company published the article? Publisher examples: New York Times, Arab Times, Al Qabas, BBC News, etc	

CURRENCY	
When was the article published? Is the information current or out of date? Should the information be updated?	

RELEVANCE	
Who is the intended audience of this article?	
Does this source provide relevant and useful information about your topic? Why or Why not?	
Do you need more information to understand the topic?	

AUTHORITY	
Who wrote the article?	
What makes this author credible to write about this topic? What credentials do they have?	
Google the author to check their credentials and write any here.	

ACCURACY	
Can you verify any of the information in the article? Find another source that does & paste the link here.	
Can you identify any errors in the article's information?	
Does the article use sources to support its claims?	
Do the sources actually exist? Look up 1 or 2 to check and write the sources here.	

PURPOSE	
What is the purpose of this website? What is the purpose of this article? Is it to entertain? To educate? To sell you something? To persuade? Is it propaganda? Why or why not?	
Does the author make their intentions clear?	
Are there any ads? What does that mean about the source?	
Is the information presented as fact, or opinion? Is the article objective and impartial?	
Can you identify any bias? Bias can be institutional, ideological, cultural, personal or political.	
Is there information missing? For example, if the article is about a protest, is there information about both sides -- law enforcement and the protestors?	