

TYPES OF SOURCES AND EVALUATING SOURCES

When entering into the academic field of study-reading, thinking, researching, and publishing-students need to be aware and knowledgeable in the subject of the types of sources that exist and to differentiate between credible and valid sources and those that are less credible and lack validity. In today's world of media frenzy where anyone can publish, just about anything, it is especially important and essential to master these skills as you continue on your path as an academic scholar. In practicing and mastering these skills, selecting and utilizing evidence will become a bit easier when conducting and crafting arguments and research essays.

Be able to understand and discuss the following:

A. Types of Sources

1. Primary
2. Secondary
3. Tertiary

B. Types of Articles

1. Popular/Non-Scholarly
2. Scholarly
3. Trade

C. Types of Publications and Periodicals

1. Newspapers (journalistic)
2. Magazines (periodicals, journalistic)
3. Journals
4. Books
5. Reference
6. Websites
7. Audio/Visual
8. "Weird Stuff"

D. Review and Credibility

1. Peer Reviewed
2. Editorially Reviewed
3. Unreviewed

Link the buttons, read the files, and watch the videos on the website under the tab Sources. The access the links, files, and videos, to become acquainted with the terms and concepts above. Read and watch to take notes, create charts, etc. whatever helps you understand the content. You may also print out information and bring into class to reference.

Be able to address and discuss the following:

1. Why is it important to evaluate your sources and what happens when you do not evaluate your sources?
2. Describe and give examples of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources. In conducting research, when would each of these types of sources be best suited to help gather information and evidence? How would you go about testing the reliability, credibility, and validity of each type of source?
2. Define popular/non-scholarly sources, scholarly sources, and trade sources. Give examples of each of these types of sources. For each, what is the author, purpose, intent, audience, references, review process, etc.? How does this information help you in choosing sources and selecting evidence in scholarly research? How do each of these fair on the Credibility Source Hierarchy (see site for visual)?
3. For each of the types of publications/periodicals, identify each as either a popular/non-scholarly source vs. scholarly source. Place them on a spectrum of credibility when conducting academic research. For each of these sources, identify when each would be useful in the research process.

You are free to branch out and use other online sources that answer and address these ideas. MAKE sure to keep track of from where you get your information and reference this in your notes.

