

Evaluating ABCD

INFORMATION SOURCES for

- Authority
- Bias
- Coverage
- Date

ALL sources:
print, electronic,
published or free web

Name:

Source: (use a form
for each source)

Authority

Who is the author or authoring agency?
What are his/her/agency qualifications or credibility?
Was the source recommended by someone you trust? Who?
How many references/citations are used?
How many "see also" links are used?
How reliable is this information (after fact checking other sources)?

In what ways do you consider this source authoritative, or not?

Bias

Which is the source's main purpose – (to inform, persuade, entertain, or sell something)?
Is the tone of text and images calm (avoid a hateful or angry tone)?
Does content show balanced perspectives or present information supported by research (and avoid an evident personal agenda trying to sell you on their opinions without facts or research)?

In what ways do you find this source to be objective?

If not, will you use this source anyway? Why or why not?

Coverage

Under what keyword(s) did you locate your topic?
What synonyms, narrower, or broader terms were given (that could be used in future searches)?

What dates are associated with this topic?
Events?
People?
Places?
Opposing Viewpoints?

What facts given were NOT in other sources?
What might be omitted from this source?

Date

What is the date of the information?
If there are links, do they lead to active pages (no dead links)?
If references/bibliography citations are used, are they fairly current for the source date?
If data is presented, is it recent enough to be convincing?
OR Is this a primary source (one with the first-hand accounts, from the original time period of the event)?

In what ways is the date of the source adequate?

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