

Source Evaluation Rubric: Print & Online

	3	2	1	0
<u>Author*:</u> What are the author's credentials and affiliation? Is the author an expert?	The author's credentials indicate that he /she is an expert on this topic.	The author is a reporter OR a known organization.	The author is named, but is not an expert on the topic. (students, fans, hobbyists).	It is unclear who wrote this information and / or no credentials are given
<u>Publisher*:</u> Is the source published by a reputable publisher or organization?	Published by: *U.S. Government *Scholarly Journal Or In a Reference or academic book	Published by a known: *organization *university *business *magazine / newspaper OR in a print book/encyclopedia	Published by: *a K-12 school *an unknown business (.com) * an unknown organization (.org).	Self-published. (blogs, personal web pages, personal interest pages)
<u>Works Cited:</u> Is the information in the source cited?	There is a Works Cited list and /or a Bibliography. Or This is a primary source document	The work cites original research / information (may include periodical articles without Works Cited)	There is a statement about the source of information, but no Works Cited.	There is no indication where the information came from.
<u>Purpose:</u> Why was this information published?	To promote scholarly research.	To provide factual information. Some opinion may be included.	To sell something, to persuade, or to promote an idea.	For personal or entertainment purposes.
<u>Date:</u> How current is the information?	The info is less than 5 years old.	The information is older, but is not necessarily out of date.	The information is clearly out of date for the topic.	There is no indication when the information was published.

Score Totals:

- 0-5 This source is highly questionable. Should not be used in research without suitable justification.
- 6-9 The site may be an acceptable starting point for gathering information, but might not be suitable as a cited source in a research project.
- 10-11 Good source for research. Information should be confirmed in other sources.
- 12-15 Excellent source for research purposes.

- Score totals are merely a guide; use the overall rubric to judge source validity
- Author and publication information are especially important. Scores lower than "2" in either of these categories raises questions about the source's credibility.
- If you are uncertain about the credibility of an author or publisher, conduct a quick online search of the name to get more information.