

Evaluating Source Credibility

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will apply criteria (currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, purpose) to judge whether a source is trustworthy.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Access to 3 different websites or articles on the same topic (printed or on a device)
- Notebook paper
- Pencil
- Ruler

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose a topic and find three different sources about it (for example: a government or education website, a news site, and a personal blog or social media post).
2. Using your ruler, draw a chart with 5 rows labeled: Currency (how recent), Relevance, Authority (who wrote it), Accuracy, Purpose.
3. Add one column for each of your three sources, and fill in short notes for each row for each source.
4. Give each source a score from 1-5 for overall trustworthiness based on your chart.
5. Write a short paragraph ranking the three sources from most to least trustworthy and explaining your top choice.

QUESTIONS

1. Which of your three sources scored highest for trustworthiness, and why?

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2. What clues told you who the author or publisher of each source was?

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3. Why does the purpose of a source (to inform, sell, or persuade) matter when judging its accuracy?
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4. Describe one red flag that would make you doubt a source's credibility.
