

Evaluating Research Sources

9th Grade

Five checks before a source goes into a bibliography.

Not every source deserves your trust, and not every trustworthy source suits your question.

AUTHORITY

1

Who wrote it, and what qualifies them?

ACCURACY

2

Is it evidenced? Can the claims be checked elsewhere?

OBJECTIVITY

3

Who benefits from you believing this?

CURRENCY

4

How old is it? In science, five years can be too old.

RELEVANCE

5

Does it actually address your question?

A biased source can still be useful — as evidence of that bias. Just be explicit about how you are using it.