

How to discuss sources and show source critical ability

Below are a number of partial student examples. Discuss with friends:

- What works?
 - What can be improved?
 - Is anything missing?
 - What are important source critical questions to ask?
 - Are there words and phrases to express yourself (in English) that you need to learn or lack?
- A. The first source used is an article written by Katie Mettler in Washington Post called *"They're as necessary as toilet paper": New York City Council approves free tampon program*. It is published June 23rd 2016, which means it is recent enough to present accurate information. Washington Post is a prestigious paper in America with the intention to provide truthful, unbiased news.
- B. One of the reason we choose these sources is because they are all pretty much up to date, the oldest source is Dagenssamhälle and it was written only 4 years ago and there isn't really anything newer than that article with the same topic. Three of my sources are from big newspaper/ channels/ companies, the New York Times, SvD and CBS news. They have been around for a long time and published a lot of trustworthy material. These articles are also written by reliable people, for example the SvD article was written by a Principal and a professor in social studies from Lund University. And Jennifer Madison, a specialist within economic recoveries, wrote the NY times article. Even though professionals wrote the articles you still need to be careful and be on the look out for personal opinions. In this case the articles backs up one and another and that makes the articles even more reliable
- C. The source is three years old and this can mean that there are other programs for helping homeless women out there now. This article is an interview with a homeless woman that is currently living on the New York streets, this can lead to that there is a purpose of the text, the journalist or the interviewee might have exaggerated the information, so the reader is going to sympathise and getting the will to help the homeless people. This criterion applies to all the sources. This specific article is dependent on other sources, the interviewee and some statistic.
- D. <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery> is a reliable source since it's both a channel streaming on television and a website. The purpose behind it is to educate in the American history, archaeology and anthropology which makes it relevant. If this source were not reliable, I believe the American television would not stream it since there is no purpose behind streaming false information.
- E. I had a little problem because of when you read it you can feel some emotion in the lyrics, so I was careful what I picked out of it but it's still written by a principal at Lunds University and a professor in social work at Lunds University. These are both well qualified men to write a text like this, but as I said I ...

- F. The sources used in this essay vary in credibility. The first one is a page on Wikipedia about the American homeless veteran population. This article has its own sources including websites of famous organisations as the Veterans Benefits Administration and the United States, congress, senate committee on Banking, Housing and Urban affairs. These two references are reliable, as are many of the professors and postgraduates who have reviewed this page. Though the references of this page are reliable, Wikipedia is still a website open for anyone to edit, which means any person could have decided to edit this page and add phony claims and information. Wikipedia does have staff who proofreads and verify their articles, but since the website has such a wide extent of content this may take some time. Thus, this alleged phony information could have been added to the page between the last verification and the date I saved this article.
- G. The purpose of the source is to inform whomever being interested in how the bitcoin system works. This source is relevant because it is written by Satoshi Nakamoto, who is the creator of bitcoin. On one hand, the source is biased when it comes to criticism of the ordinary financial institution systems, which bitcoin is striving against. On the other hand, it is a first source when it comes to the vision of bitcoin, and since it is written by the creator himself, it cannot have false statements about the vision; thus, making this source highly accurate.
- H. The article *How did blues influence rock and roll?* on the webpage Longwood blog by Regan Wardensky (2012-12-03). This is a blog, which makes it less reliable. However, it is an .edu address and has the purpose of educating. The article is a bit objective but has at the same time certain elements of subjectivity. This blog post is relevant to the research to describe firstly, how blues influenced rock and roll and secondly, how rock and roll later influenced modern rock music.

The article *blues music* on the webpage Encyclopaedia Britannica. This is a reliable source since their purpose is to educate and to promote education and learning and the article itself is written in an objective and clear manner. It is an organisation and therefore before they publish anything they fact check it, which makes it more reliable. Also, when comparing the information to the Wikipedia page, it is similar but compressed. Additionally, this article is relevant to the research question because it explains the blues, what it is and a great amount of information can be extracted.

- I. This article only uses sources that write their articles from a factual standpoint and isn't extremely politically biased to try to understand this issue from an unbiased perspective. But it is also important to note that almost all of these sites are internet news outlets which will mean that they would be against repealing of the net neutrality law as they earn the majority of their income through internet articles. A lot of these sources are slightly liberal biased but that is because mainstream media is very left lenient and therefore the majority of sources would be left biased.

QUESTIONS THAT ARE GOOD TO ASK WHEN EVALUATING SOURCES

What kind of source it is (primary or secondary)

What type of source (artefact, written, painting, photo, blog, article, opinion column, scientific report etc.)

Who was the creator of the source and what are the qualifications of the author/publisher

When it was created and/or published and where

Who the intended audience of the source was

What the purpose of the source was (why it was created)

What perspective (point of view) the source contains

Whether it contains any bias (for or against people or ideas, cultural or political bias)

If the source's information can be corroborated (confirmed or supported) by other sources

If the source's information is in contradiction with other sources

If there is a bibliography

Has the material been reviewed by a group of peers, or has it been edited?

How accurate the information in the source is

How reliable a source, author or information is

How relevant particular sources are to your investigation

GOOD VOCABULARY

First hand information/source – second hand information

Primary source or secondary source

Cross-referencing

Verify

Corroborate

Objective

Subjective

Value-loaded words

Neutral (tone)

Perspective

Purpose

Aim

Bias - Biased

Reliable – reliability

Credible - credibility

Trustworthy

Relevant (time but ALSO with regard to question asked!)

Accurate

Fact checked

Ulterior motive

Misinterpreted