

CREDIBLE VS. NON CREDIBLE SOURCES

Credible sources are sources that a reader can trust! We trust that an author’s ideas are his or her own and can be backed up with evidence. When doing research, you should ALWAYS use a credible source. *Keep in mind that the definition of credible source depends on the audience, the topic, and the discipline.*

CREDIBLE SOURCES	NON CREDIBLE SOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals by authors respected and well known in their specific fields. • Websites from credible institutions like universities and government agencies. • Materials published in the last 10 years. • Websites ending in .org, .edu, and .gov, and the information found on these sites are regularly updated. • Reputable news sources (Beaver County Times, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The New York Times, CNN News, ect.). • Peer reviewed journal articles. • The purpose of the source is informative and not biased. • The source has a specific author and the audience is clear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blogs, facebook posts, or other self-authored sites. • Research articles without citations. • Materials published over 15 years ago or have theories that are out of date. • Individual or business websites. • Materials that are published by an entity that may have an ulterior motive. • Websites that do not have much information available. • The purpose of the source is not informative, but to persuade. • A website that is not regularly updated or the author is unreliable.

PRIMARY & SECONDARY SOURCES

Primary Source: is a document, speech, or other piece of evidence that was created during the period of study.

Examples → autobiographies, letters, diaries, photographs, public records, speeches, and news footage.

Secondary Source: provides interpretation and analysis of primary sources.

Examples → textbooks, encyclopedias, databases, and literary analyses or critiques.

EVALUATING YOUR SOURCE

FACTORS TO CONSIDER	LEAST RELIABLE	POSSIBLY RELIABLE	MOST RELIABLE
TYPE OF SOURCE	Unfamiliar Website	Published Material	Official Websites, Institutional Sites, & Academic Journals
AUTHOR'S BACKGROUND	Unaccredited	Educated on Topic	Expert in the Field
DATE PUBLISHED	None	Outdated	Recently Revised
DEPTH OF REVIEW	Controversial Reviews	Good Public Response & General Approval	Peer-Reviewed by Reliable Sources
SOURCES CITED	None	Credible Sources	Citations Referencing Other Well-Cited Works
OBJECTIVITY	Clearly Biased	Sponsored Source	Balanced & Neutral

References

University Writing Center at Appalachian State University. "Credible vs. Non Credible Sources." *Appstate.edu*. Appalachian State University. March 2013. Web. 10 November 2015.

Presentation College. "Source Evaluation Sheet." *Presentation.edu*. Presentation College. Web. 10 November 2015.