

RHET 110: Speaking & Writing

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Library Research Services

- **Research Appointments**
 - meet with a librarian to discuss research strategies and sources for your papers
- **ILLiad Interlibrary Loan**
 - get books and articles from other libraries
- **RefME**
 - collect, organize and edit citations and create bibliographies

Accessing publications

NEWS

On the Library web site go to **Research Resources by Source Type > News & Newspapers**

PRINT PUBLICATIONS & JOURNALS

Visit Current Periodicals in Azariah's

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS & JOURNALS

Use the **Journal Finder** tab on the Main Library page (gives both online and print status)

Search the **MasterFILE Premier** database

Evaluating Publications

Pew Research Center: Journalism & Media (journalism.org)

Critical Questions

Use the following questions to help you think through the significance and value of information sources in relation to a particular research project or other information need. Please note that the broad categories below overlap and are not intended to be analyzed in isolation from each other.

CONTEXT

- What is the purpose of the source? Why was it written or created?
- Who is the primary audience for the source? Experts in a particular subject or discipline? People working in a particular career? Some other specific group? The general public?
- Who cares about the information or argument in this source? Why would someone be interested in it?
- What are the key issues or topics being addressed? How does it relate to other sources on similar issues? What "conversation" does the source participate in?

CREDIBILITY

- How authoritative is the author/creator? What knowledge, expertise, or skills does the author/creator have?
- What kind of evidence or data is presented in the source? How can we evaluate the accuracy or quality of the evidence?
- Is it possible to trace the sources of outside information used by the author/creator? Is there a bibliography or other means of tracing sources?
- What type of review process did the source undergo? Has it been evaluated by scholars in a particular subject area (i.e. peer-reviewed)? Has it been evaluated by an editor or publisher?

POINT OF VIEW

- What is the point of view of the author/creator? What are the potential biases of the source? Are multiple perspectives considered?
- How is the author/creator approaching the topic? In what other ways might the author/creator have approached the topic?
- How does my own point of view as a reader affect my evaluation or understanding of the source? What are my biases and assumptions?

DEPTH

- How detailed is the argument or information presented in the source? How general or specific is it? How does it compare to the depth of other related sources?
- How long is the source? A few pages? A longer article? A book-length work?
- Is the depth appropriate for my purposes as a researcher?

RELEVANCE

- How does the source speak to my research question or topic? How does it speak to issues raised by other sources? How does it relate to the larger “conversation” on the topic?
- Have I considered a variety of ways the source might be relevant? Am I being too quick to judge the source as relevant or irrelevant?
- Does the content of the source still matter at this point in time? Are there more recent perspectives that also need to be taken into account?
- Is the content of the source appropriate for my goals or needs as a researcher?

IMPACT

- Who is affected by the argument or information presented in the source?
- How significant is the argument or information? What is the value of the source?
- What are the implications of the argument or information for my own research?
- What are the implications of the argument or information for the larger “conversation” on the topic? What does the source add to the “conversation?”