

Questions for reliability:

1. Is the article peer-reviewed? (If **yes**, answer question 2 and stop; if **no**, go to question 3 and continue).
2. When was the piece written? Does it need to be up-to-date for your purpose?
Is the scope of your topic covered sufficiently in the article or does the article go outside of your scope? Is the article limited in any way (geographically, time, participants, etc.)?

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3. Who is the author / who are the authors? What is their background? Are they considered “experts” in the field they are discussion or are they “lay” people? How does this affect their understanding or opinion on the topic?  
Who is the publisher of this piece? Is it a respected publisher or was this self-published?
4. Is the author(s) or the publisher representing a specific side of an issue only or does the author / publisher represent both sides in a fair manner? Is the author / publisher part of a known organization that stands firmly on one side of an issue? Does the author have some emotional reason for supporting one side that may skew information presented?
5. What is the purpose of the piece? To educate? Entertain? Persuade? How can you tell?
6. When was the piece written? Does it need to be up-to-date for your purpose?  
Is the scope of your topic covered sufficiently in the article or does the article go outside of your scope? Is the article limited in any way (geographically, time, participants, etc.)?

**Demo Topic (and solutions): Obesity:**

Directions: With your partner(s), analyze one source (any way you’d like to) for the demo topic “obesity” and evaluate it for reliability. Be prepared to share your answer with the class.

**Source #1**

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|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Source #1</b> (title, author, year, etc.) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Summary</b>                               | (Leave blank for now)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Statement of Reliability</b>              | <p>Unreliable. The article is a piece of journal which is written by an author who is trying to lose weight. In the journal the author demonstrated her own experience on her weight-losing daily life, and personal experience cannot be referred to for a common topic.</p> <p>The article is published on a blog website, which has no sponsor and full of advertisement.</p> |

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Statement of Relevancy</b> | (Leave blank for now) |
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Source #2

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|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Source #2</b> (title, author, year, etc.) | Obesity is found to gain its hold in earliest years.<br>By Gina Kolata<br>Jan.29 2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Summary</b>                               | (Leave blank for now)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Statement of Reliability</b>              | This article is not peer-reviewed. The author, Gina Kolata can be considered as an “export” in the field based on her education and work background.<br>Gina Kolata is focused on science and medicine. She studied molecular biology at M.I.T. for a year and get the applied math degree from the University of Maryland.<br>The author has published a book called <Rethinking Thin: The New Science of Weight Loss and the Myths and Realities of Dieting>.<br>The purpose is to educate. |
| <b>Statement of Relevancy</b>                | (Leave blank for now)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Source #3

|                                              |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Source #3</b> (title, author, year, etc.) | Incidence of Childhood Obesity in the United States<br>Cunningham S., Kramer M., Narayan K.M.<br>January 30, 2014 |
| <b>Summary</b>                               |                                                                                                                   |

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|                                 | (Leave blank for now)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Statement of Reliability</b> | <p>This article is not peer-reviewed.</p> <p>It is a reliable source because it is supported by reputational institution, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The article is a peer-reviewed article. Also, the article provides a lot of useful statistics and evidence about that the incidence of obesity is high during young ages.</p> <p>The process of how to conclude the result is really detailed.</p> <p>It is written in 2014, so, it is a recent source.</p> |
| <b>Statement of Relevancy</b>   | (Leave blank for now)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |