

WHO'S AN AUTHORITY?

Purpose

Before you learn more about the authority claim tester, gain a better understanding of what authority means, how it's used, and how its meaning can change over time.

Process

1. Complete the sentence below.

"An authority is someone who...."

2. Who are some people you consider to be authorities? List as many examples as you can think of.

3. Read the following scenarios and think about the authority you might turn to in each situation. Be prepared to share and explain your answers.

Scenario	Authority
You have a cough that won't go away.	
You're writing a research paper on ancient Egypt.	
You want to learn more about the upcoming elections.	
You want to learn how to cook your favorite food.	
You want advice for which colleges to apply to.	

4. Authority comes in all shapes and sizes. Authority can be **earned** based on merit, such as licensure or education (doctors, teachers, aestheticians, electricians, lawyers, and so on). Authority can also be **granted** based on popularity or how closely we know—and therefore trust—someone. Look at the authorities you listed in the right-hand column above, and put an **E** next to the authorities you think have earned their authority, and a **G** next to those you think have been granted their authority.