

Credible Sources

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Take a look at the [slide deck for these activities](#).

You can also find out about the journal it is published in by searching online. You will be able to find out whether the journal is peer-reviewed and what its scope and purpose is.

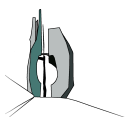
Activity 1: Where would you look to find out more on a breaking news story?

Add any news source you might use to the whiteboard in the session. There's no right or wrong answers.

Activity 2: Evaluating websites. Judging objectivity

Think about the purpose of a website and whether it is objective enough as evidence for academic work. Have a look at a couple of the articles below and answer the questions even further below. Again, try not to take too long answering the questions.

- Group 1
Site: [NRDC](#)
Article : [Banishing the climate change blues](#).
- Group 2
Site: [NASA Earth Observatory](#)
Article : [Global warming](#).
- Group 3
Site: [NewsThump](#)
Article : [Pope urges mankind to address climate change](#)
- Group 4
Site: [BBC News](#)
Article : [September was world's 'hottest on record'](#)



Look at clues about the source (the website) first

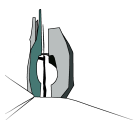
1) Author/publisher

- a) Who is responsible? (It could be an individual or an institution)
- b) Can you find out more about them by navigating to parts of their site that tell you about them/their authors? Do they have any vested interests that may make them less objective?
- c) Who is the audience? What does that tell you about any potential bias?

Now skim-read the article

2) Opposing Viewpoints

- a) Does the author recognize a viewpoint that opposes their own? If so, what is it?
- b) Is that viewpoint presented objectively or emotionally?
- c) List some quotations to support your claim.



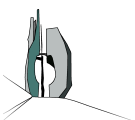
3) Language

- a) Does the author present their argument in extreme language? Do they write to appeal to emotions? If so, provide some examples.

- b) Does the author use value-laden terms that lend a negative impression (as in 'illegal aliens' versus 'undocumented workers')? If so, provide some examples.

4) Overall, what would you say about the objectivity of this document?

Rating from 1 to 10 can help.



Activity 3: Let's edit Wikipedia!

Here's some useful links for getting started with editing Wikipedia:

Wikipedia advice

A primer for newcomers

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:A_primer_for_newcomers

Identifying reliable sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Identifying_reliable_sources

Useful tools

Wikipedia Sandbox

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draft:Sandbox>

Citation Hunt

<https://tools.wmflabs.org/citationhunt/>

Orphaned articles

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:All_orphaned_articles

