Snap Judgment: Credible Sources

Learning Objective 11.W.14.R

Place in Semester 2, Module 7, before Assignment 7.2

Consider the following:

- **Authority:** Who created the source? What are the author's credentials?
- **Accuracy and evidence:** Does the source provide facts, data, citations, or links?
- **Purpose and bias:** Is it designed to inform, sell, entertain, or persuade?
- **Currency:** When was it published or updated?
- **Corroboration:** Do other reliable sources support the information?

Drag and Drop: Two Columns: **Yes**, **source has relevant authority and research.**
No, **source lacks evidence, authority, and/or a clear purpose.**

Instructions: For each source listed, decide if it is a reliable, credible, scholarly source. Drag each source to the correct column.

Sources:

Government Climate Report

Source: "Climate Trends 2024," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, noaa.gov
Date: Updated March 2025
Description: Includes data tables, methods, and links to supporting information.

Personal Health Blog

Source: "Vaccines and My Experience," personal blog
Date: 2017
Description: Describes one person's experience but includes no references or supporting research.

Professional Medical Organization

Source: Research brief on teen sleep, American Academy of Pediatrics, aap.org
Date: 2023
Description: Summarizes research and includes references to peer-reviewed studies.

Sponsored Product List

Source: "Top 10 Air Purifiers," commercial website
Date: 2025

Description: Labeled “Partner Content” and includes affiliate links to products.

Wikipedia Article

Source: “Photosynthesis,” Wikipedia
Date: Updated last week
Description: Contains many references to books, articles, and websites.

Unsupported Social Media Claim

Source: Social media graphic claiming that drinking salt water cures colds
Date: Not provided
Description: Makes a medical claim without naming an author, source, or evidence.

University Research Summary

Source: University laboratory webpage, .edu
Date: 2022
Description: Summarizes a peer-reviewed study and links to its DOI.

Historical Museum Page

Source: Museum webpage about a local historical event
Date: Updated 2024
Description: Names the author, lists primary sources, and provides links to archived documents.

Anonymous Statistics Graphic

Source: “90% of Students Prefer Four-Day School Weeks”
Date: Not provided
Description: Shared online with no author, sample size, survey questions, or link to the original study.

Answer key:

Card 1: Government Climate Report

Source: “Climate Trends 2024,” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, noaa.gov
Date: Updated March 2025
Description: Includes data tables, methods, and links to supporting information.
Suggested judgment: Yes, source has relevant authority and research.
Reason: The organization has relevant authority, the report is current, and it provides evidence and methods.

Card 2: Personal Health Blog

Source: “Vaccines and My Experience,” personal blog
Date: 2017
Description: Describes one person’s experience but includes no references or supporting research.
Suggested judgment: No, source lacks evidence, authority, and/or a clear purpose.
Reason: The source is anecdotal, dated, and lacks evidence from qualified experts or research.

Card 3: Professional Medical Organization

Source: Research brief on teen sleep, American Academy of Pediatrics, aap.org
Date: 2023
Description: Summarizes research and includes references to peer-reviewed studies.
Suggested judgment: Yes, source has relevant authority and research.
Reason: The organization has relevant expertise, and the brief cites research.

Card 4: Sponsored Product List

Source: “Top 10 Air Purifiers,” commercial website
Date: 2025
Description: Labeled “Partner Content” and includes affiliate links to products.
Suggested judgment: No, source lacks evidence, authority, and/or a clear purpose.
Reason: The source may be influenced by commercial interests and should be checked against independent reviews.

Card 5: Wikipedia Article

Source: “Photosynthesis,” Wikipedia
Date: Updated last week
Description: Contains many references to books, articles, and websites.
Suggested judgment: No, source lacks evidence, authority, and/or a clear purpose.
Reason: It may be useful for background information, but students should check and cite the original sources.

Card 6: Unsupported Social Media Claim

Source: Social media graphic claiming that drinking salt water cures colds
Date: Not provided
Description: Makes a medical claim without naming an author, source, or evidence.
Suggested judgment: No, source lacks evidence, authority, and/or a clear purpose.
Reason: The claim lacks evidence, authority, and a clear purpose. Medical information requires especially careful verification.

Card 7: University Research Summary

Source: University laboratory webpage, .edu
Date: 2022
Description: Summarizes a peer-reviewed study and links to its DOI.
Suggested judgment: Yes, source has relevant authority and research.
Reason: The page identifies a relevant institution, provides research information, and links to the original study.

Card 9: Historical Museum Page

Source: Museum webpage about a local historical event
Date: Updated 2024
Description: Names the author, lists primary sources, and provides links to archived documents.
Suggested judgment: Yes, source has relevant authority and research.
Reason: The museum has relevant expertise, and the page provides evidence that can be checked.

Card 10: Anonymous Statistics Graphic

Source: “90% of Students Prefer Four-Day School Weeks”
Date: Not provided
Description: Shared online with no author, sample size, survey questions, or link to the original study.
Suggested judgment: No, source lacks evidence, authority, and/or a clear purpose.
Reason: The statistic cannot be evaluated because its source, methods, and evidence are missing.