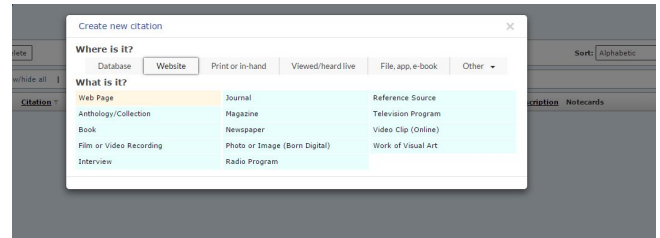


Evaluating Sources



What is your Source? Knowing what kind of source you are learning from helps to understand if the information can be trusted. For instance, **if your source is a blog then the information is someone's opinion that is not fact based, so shouldn't be used for school work.**



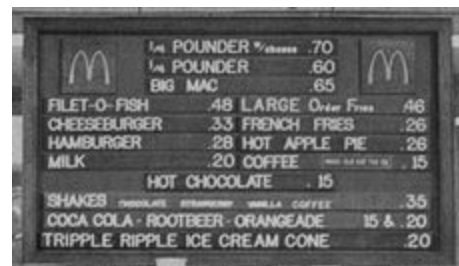
Common Types of Sources

- Web page
- Newspaper article (print or online)
- Magazine article (print or online)
- Journal Article (print or online)
- Print Book or Reference Book
- Book or Book Chapter reprinted on a web page
- Print or Online Encyclopedia
- Photograph or Image
- Work of Visual Art
- Television Program
- Video recording
- Interview
- Audio recording (podcast)
- Federal or State Government report
- Private Organization report
- Blog
- Tweet
- Text message



Who wrote it? Look for the author, editor or owner of the source. Look at the top, or at the end of the website. Look for links that say “**About us**,” or “**Contact us**” or someone’s name in tiny print. Many web pages don’t have authors, but they may have someone who is charge of the page, or the project. At the very least, look for **whoever is publishing the page** (a university, or a business, or an individual) Are they qualified to write on that topic?

How old is it? For any kind of science, health or current events, look for **the date** the source was created or last updated. We want the date to be at least within five years or less. For history or literature the date is less important, but still needs to be found.



Is it accurate? Read some of the information to see if you see any kind of spelling errors, words that show bias such as **“wonderful,”** or **“terrible,”** unless they are in a direct quote and statements that seem like they might be untrue or are unsupported by evidence. “Massachusetts farmers are responsible for the majority of the world’s Orange and Grapefruit harvest,” or “Students at Mansfield High School consistently score higher than any other school in the US on MCAS

exams.”



Design and Format? How easily can you find information? Is there enough information on your topic- a good web site has more than one page of information on your topic. Is it at your reading level? Are there consistent and clear links to the information pages? Are there blinking or pop up ads?

To Summarize... a good source of information is:

- Easy to use
- Relevant to your search
- Recently updated
- Written by someone with knowledge in that subject or field.
- True, fact checked, unbiased and free of inference
- Uses data and facts as evidence of statements and claims
- Not posted by someone with a conflict of interest

“ EDUCATION IS NOT THE LEARNING OF FACTS, BUT TRAINING THE MIND TO THINK. ”
- ALBERT EINSTEIN

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