

# ASSESSING SOURCES

## ASSESSING A SOURCE TEXT'S CREDIBILITY

Look at the information you can find about the text in the areas below, and consider the following questions to assess a source text's credibility:

PUBLISHER	DATE	AUTHOR	TYPE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the publisher's relationship to the topic area?</li> <li>What economic stake might the publisher have in the topic area?</li> <li>What political stake might the publisher have in the topic area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When was the text first published?</li> <li>How current is the information on the topic?</li> <li>How does the publishing date relate to the history of the topic?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the author's qualifications/credentials relative to the topic area?</li> <li>What is the author's personal relationship to the topic area?</li> <li>What economic/political stakes might the author have in the topic area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What type of text is it: explanation, informational article, feature, research study, op/ed, essay, argument, other?</li> <li>What is the purpose of the text with respect to the topic area?</li> </ul>

## ASSESSING A SOURCE TEXT'S ACCESSIBILITY AND INTEREST LEVEL

Consider your initial experience in reading the text, how well you understand it, and whether it seems interesting to you:

ACCESSIBILITY TO YOU AS A READER	INTEREST AND MEANING FOR YOU AS A READER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Am I able to read and comprehend the text easily?</li> <li>How do the text's structure and formatting either help or hinder me in reading it?</li> <li>Do I have adequate background knowledge to understand the terminology, information, and ideas in the text?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the text present ideas or information that I find interesting?</li> <li>Which of my Inquiry Paths will the text provide information for?</li> <li>Which inquiry questions does the text help me answer? How?</li> </ul>

## ASSESSING A SOURCE TEXT'S RELEVANCE AND RICHNESS

Using your Research Frame as a reference, answer the following questions:

RELEVANCE TO TOPIC & PURPOSE	RELEVANCE TO AREA OF INVESTIGATION	SCOPE AND RICHNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What information does the text provide on the topic?</li> <li>How might the text help me accomplish the purpose for my research?</li> <li>Does the text provide accurate information?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is the text related to the specific area I am investigating?</li> <li>Which of my paths of inquiry might the text provide information for?</li> <li>Which inquiry questions might the text help me address? How?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How long is the text and what is the scope of the topic areas it addresses?</li> <li>How extensive and supported is the information it provides?</li> <li>How does the information in the text relate to other texts?</li> </ul>