

Academic writing...

CHOOSING YOUR SOURCES

Think of your work as an ice cream cone: the quotes, information, and data you use in your essay or article are the rich and delicious ice cream, and your structure and formatting are the cone holding it together. A strong, crispy waffle cone is awesome, but without tasty ice cream it's missing something essential!



information,
data, quotes

structure,
formatting

When evaluating potential sources of information, consider...

1 BIAS



No, not your kpop "bias"! Is this source disproportionately one-sided in a closed-minded or prejudicial way? If so, it's a biased source and you should be skeptical of its truthfulness. Using a biased source might make your reader take you less seriously.

2 C.R.A.A.P. TEST

Apply the C.R.A.A.P. test! Strive to use sources that demonstrate:

- CURRENCY** (timeliness)
- RELEVANCY** (importance to your topic)
- AUTHORITY** (qualifications)
- ACCURACY** (correctness & honesty)
- PURPOSE** (intent)

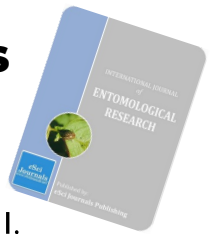


3 SCHOLARLY VS POPULAR SOURCES

Know what types of sources you're expected to use:

Scholarly Sources: Professional, written by experts, original research, little to no advertising, full citations, specialized vocabulary and language

Popular Sources: For-profit, entertaining, non-specialist writers, incomplete citations



4 ONLINE VS. PRINT SOURCES

Remember, you aren't limited to printed information- there are tons of sources available online, including ebooks, audiobooks, websites, scholarly databases, and more! **Talk to your librarian today for more information :)**



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5 FAKE NEWS & FACT CHECKING

"Fake News" is here, and it's unfortunately here to stay. Make sure you evaluate your sources to ensure they are factual and not Fake News!

REMEMBER:

- If it seems fishy, it probably is
- Use a variety of methods and resources to check and verify facts
- Don't click "share" if you aren't sure



Tips for Fighting Fake News

- Check: is there **more to the story?** (Is this one-sided?)
- Check **the comments** (Someone might have already pointed out flaws)
- Check the **source** (is it satire, opinion, etc.?)
- Check the **quotes** (Who is being quoted? Are they credible? Do they actually exist?)
- Check the **author(s)** (Who are they? What makes them credible? Are they biased? Do they have a conflict of interest?)
- Check the **date** (is this old news being recirculated?)
- Check the **links** (Are they working? A lot of broken links could be a warning that the article isn't credible)
- Check **yourself** (recognize your own biases and how your beliefs might affect your judgement)