

Source Analysis

You are required to assess all non-print and non-SHS/KCLS database sources.

1) [Complete a source analysis via this link.](#) *(open link in new tab for easy reference to this page)*

-- there are a couple footnotes in the analysis questions, corresponding notations are below

(1) Look for an "about author/about site" or search online

(2) Look at top or bottom of the page; look for publishers like universities, governments, etc.

(3) *Bias* may be an aspect of your research; if so, answer this question 'yes'

(4) Or there are reasons stated for the straying from the conventional understanding

2) Once you complete the analysis and receive your score, return to this page for next steps.

Next Steps

3) Completed analysis... **Your score is:**

100% - 85% = Source is very likely valid, use the source

84% - 60% = Use the source **and** complete Source Evaluation below

59% - 0% = Choose another source; shouldn't be used for an academic paper

4) **Source Evaluation** (needed for sources that scored 84% - 60%). This will be turned in with your final paper as a separate document titled: Source Evaluation

Assignment: For sources not definitively valid you need to explain the authority* of the source AND why** you are using the source in at least 150 words (a paragraph or two).

note: this is the traditional requirement for research papers; confirm specifics with your teacher

Format: On a document with a complete MLA heading, add the full MLA citation for the source and then your paragraph or two explaining the authority of the source* and why you are using it**. If you have more than one source you are completing an evaluation for, include them all in one document – just be sure to start each entry with the full citation.

*Some questions you might address in your paragraph: • Type & origin of source (print/internet source? primary/ secondary/ tertiary source?) • Author? Author's qualifications/purpose? • Point of view? • Credibility of information? Is there an editor (has someone/some organization fact-checked the information)? • How do other sources confirm or contradict this information? • When was the information written/updated?

**Why you are using the source cannot simply be that "it has lots of information" or that "it is useful", but explain why are you using it instead of other traditional academic sources?