

## Assess all non-print and non-SHS/KCLS database sources.

Complete the rubric below, look at your rubric score for next steps.

| <b>Check one box per column</b>   |                         |                                   |  |  |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Authority</b><br>1. There is an author of the source (1).<br>2. I can find the academic/professional credentials of the author.<br>3. Author is highly qualified to write page/appears to be an expert on subject.<br>4. There is a reputable publisher, organization, or sponsor of the source (2).<br>5. There are NO advertisements on the page.  | Criteria Weight:<br>/25 | I answered YES to ALL statements. | I answered YES to ALL BUT ONE OR TWO statements. | I answered NO to more than two statements. |
| <b>Purpose/Point of View</b><br>1. The purpose of source is educational ( <i>rather than commercial/entertainment</i> )<br>2. Based on my knowledge, information presented is fact ( <i>not opinion/propaganda</i> ).<br>3. The source does NOT appear to be a personal or hobby page ( <i>you've checked the author and URL isn't a blog, etc.</i> ).<br>4. The information in this source does NOT appear to be secretly biased or limited to one point of view (3).<br>5. Overall, source is suitable as a resource for my level of academic research. | Criteria Weight:<br>/25 | I answered YES to ALL statements. | I answered YES to ALL BUT ONE OR TWO statements. | I answered NO to more than two statements. |
| <b>Reliability</b><br>1. The page/site is well-organized and all links work.<br>2. Information presented is cited correctly ( <i>a reference list/bibliography included</i> ).<br>3. There is a published/last updated date.  | Criteria Weight:<br>/25 | I answered YES to ALL statements. | I answered YES to ALL BUT ONE OR TWO statements. | I answered NO to more than two statements. |
| <b>Relevance &amp; Content</b><br>1. The main subject matter of the source is related to my topic.<br>2. I can distinguish between fact and opinion in the source.<br>3. The author's/source's argument is similar to other arguments on subject (4).<br>4. This is a subject-specific, in-depth source ( <i>not one used for beginning/general research: Dictionary.com, Wikipedia, etc.</i> ).  | Criteria Weight:<br>/25 | I answered YES to ALL statements. | I answered YES to ALL BUT ONE OR TWO statements. | I answered NO to more than two statements. |

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

2 Look at the top or bottom of the page – look for publishers like universities, governments, academic publishers

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

**RUBRIC SCORE:**      %

100% - 81% = Source is very likely valid, use the source

80% - 60% = Use the source and complete [a source evaluation](#)

59% - 0% = Do not use source for an academic paper