Evaluating & Choosing Sources (Video)

Check your knowledge about this topic by answering these questions.

1. For which of these topics is it important to consider the timeliness of a source’s information?

Mark all that are correct.

13 points

* Life on the Oregon Trail
* Endangered species
* How to bake chocolate chip cookies
* How technology helps doctors do their job

2. There are several ways to help you decide if the information in a source is relevant to, or matches, your topic. Which is NOT correct?

13 points

* Scan the table of contents and index.
* Check out the pictures and their captions.
* Pay attention to headings and subheadings on pages.
* Read the entire source, keeping your research questions in mind.

3. When considering the authority and accuracy of a source, which statement is FALSE?

13 points

* Authority means that the author is knowledgeable about the topic he or she wrote about.
* Accuracy is the least important factor to consider when evaluating a potential source.
* Books in your school library have already been evaluated for authority and accuracy.
* When considering using a website, it is important to evaluate the accuracy of the information and the author’s expertise.

4. When considering the relevance of a source, what is MOST important?

11 points

* Whether or not the author of the source is an expert on the topic
* Why the author chose to write the source
* Whether the information in the source answers one or more of your research questions
* When the source was written

5. When considering an author’s purpose, which statement is FALSE?

11 points

* Purpose is the reason the information was created.
* You should ask who wrote the information and why.
* The purpose of the information might be to entertain, inform, persuade, or sell.
* If the purpose is to persuade, automatically put the source in the “no” pile.

6. An author’s opinions, thoughts, and feelings in favor of or against a topic are called bias. Which statements are TRUE about evaluating information for bias?

Mark all that are correct.

13 points

* Everyone is biased, so it is not important to consider bias.
* If an author is trying to persuade you on an issue, the information is biased.
* If an author explains both sides of an issue, automatically put the source in your “yes” pile.
* Consider bias when thinking about an author’s purpose for sharing information.

7. Which statements about the copyright date of a book are TRUE?

Mark all that are correct.

13 points

* The copyright date is usually on the back of the title page.
* The copyright date shows when the book was published or created.
* If a book has an older copyright date, automatically put it in the “no” pile.
* Knowing the copyright date helps you when considering the purpose of the information.

8. Which statements about TRAAPing, or evaluating, a source are TRUE?

Mark all that are correct.

13 points

* When a source answers one of your research questions but provides very limited information, put the source in the “maybe” pile.
* You must consider all five factors before making a decision about whether or not to use a source -- timeliness, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose.
* Understanding the timeliness, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose of the information will help you decide whether or not to use a source.
* Once you have divided your potential sources into “yes,” “maybe,” and “no” piles, reevaluate the “no” sources to make sure you did not miss something important.