Determining the Reliability of a Source: Notes

LESS CREDIBLE ← → MORE CREDIBLE

What is the intended audience?

← pressure group ·········· general public ································· academic

What's the source's authority? Is it peer-reviewed?

← unidentified ············ individual opinion ········ cited expert ············ PEER REVIEW

Is the content biased?

← significant, unacknowledged bias ····················· acknowledged bias ····················· balanced →

How accurate is it?

← no credible references ········ obvious omissions ········ cited references ····· >2 verifying sources

How current is the information?

← undated ···························· old ··· current →

Determining the Reliability of a Source: Practice

Directions: Using the chart above, determine the reliability of sources. As a class, you will all focus on determining the credibility of a single article, focusing on the 1) audience 2) authority/sources used 3) bias of content 4) accuracy of information and 5) date of information. For instance, you will determine who the intended audience is and then you provide evidence from the article to support your claim. You will complete this process for each element of determining basic credibility. Then you will replicate this process determining the reliability of 2 more articles in your group. Once you fill out the following chart, you will bring the article up on the smart board and share your findings with the class. All of your claims need to have direct support from the article that you can share with the class.

Elements to Determine Reliability	Intended Audience	Authority/Sources	Content Bias	Information Accuracy	Date Published
Class Article:					
Group Article:					