

Evaluating Articles

Find an article using an article database such as *Academic Search* or *Proquest*.

To evaluate the article:

1. Read the first 1-2 paragraphs
2. Scan the rest of the article
3. Pay special attention to the information in the article citation, and at the beginning and end of the article. Information about an author's affiliation, for example, is often listed at the very beginning or toward the end.

Article Citation

Authority / Expertise

1. Who's the author, organization or sponsor behind it?
2. What can you tell about their credentials?
3. What can you tell about their point of view or bias?

Content, Scope, Authenticity

1. What is the date of publication or when was the web page last updated?
2. Is there a bibliography or sources cited page that tells what this information is based on?
3. How detailed or in-depth is the article or web page?

Type and Purpose of Page or Article

1. Who is the intended audience?
2. What type of language is used? (General, advanced, technical, specialized jargon, etc.)
3. Why was this written? To inform, explain, persuade, sell, etc.? Do you see evidence of advertising?
4. Does the author present a balanced viewpoint?

Overall, would you say this is a source that you would use in your academic research?

Why or why not?