



EVALUATING SOURCES

When conducting research for a paper, it is important to evaluate each source for [credibility](#) and [accuracy](#) to ensure that the facts and arguments you use in your paper are well-supported. You might also refer to our [source evaluation](#) handout for a breakdown of the kinds of sources writers use.

RELEVANCE

The first step in evaluating a source is to determine if that source supports your purpose for writing. You might use sources to help answer your research questions, provide background information, establish a claim, or introduce an opposing viewpoint. Once you have established that a source is useful and relevant to your paper, then you can evaluate the source for reliability.

RELIABILITY

The three criteria below can help you identify if your source is reliable, or valid, for your paper's purpose:

Authority

If the [credibility](#) of a source is credible, using their work to support your ideas gives your paper credibility. A researcher or reporter may have different qualifications and perspectives to offer, but it is important to assess whether the author has the expertise required to accurately write about a topic. For ex

