

Evaluating Sources

Different publications have different purposes and are intended for different audiences. So it is important to consider their relevance and authority before you use them to support what you have to say. Three criteria to always consider when examining a source are:

1. **Timeliness:** is the research up-to-date, not superseded by new research?
2. **Authority:** authors credentials should be clearly visible -- are they experts in the field?
3. **Objectivity:** Is this an opinion piece or information/fact based?

Academic vs. Popular Sources	Academic (Journal)	Popular (magazine/newspaper)
Length		
Authorship		
Audience		
Format/Structure		
Editors/Publisher		
Credits/ Documentation		
Special Features		
Examples		

Adapted from Royal Roads University:

<http://library.royalroads.ca/infoquest-tutorials/articles/academic-vs-popular-sources>