ASSESSING SOURCES

ASSESSING A SOURCE TEXT'S CREDIBILITY

Look at the information you can find about the text in the areas below, and consider the following questions to assess a source text's credibility:

PUBLISHER	DATE	AUTHOR	TYPE
• What is the publisher's relationship to the topic area? • What economic stake might the publisher have in the topic area? • What political stake might the publisher have in the topic area?	• When was the text first published? • How current is the information on the topic? • How does the publishing date relate to the history of the topic?	• What are the author's qualifications/ credentials relative to the topic area? • What is the author's personal relationship to the topic area? • What economic/political stakes might the author have in the topic area?	• What type of text is it: explanation, informational article, feature, research study, op/ed, essay, argument, other? • What is the purpose of the text with respect to the topic area?

ASSESSING A SOURCE TEXT'S ACCESSIBILITY AND INTEREST LEVEL

Consider your initial experience in reading the text, how well you understand it, and whether it seems interesting to you:

ACCESSIBILITY TO YOU AS A READER	INTEREST AND MEANING FOR YOU AS A READER
• Am I able to read and comprehend the text easily? • How do the text's structure and formatting either help or hinder me in reading it? • Do I have adequate background knowledge to understand the terminology, information, and ideas in the text?	• Does the text present ideas or information that I find interesting? • Which of my Inquiry Paths will the text provide information for? • Which inquiry questions does the text help me answer? How?

ASSESSING A SOURCE TEXT'S RELEVANCE AND RICHNESS

Using your Research Frame as a reference, answer the following questions:

RELEVANCE TO TOPIC & PURPOSE	RELEVANCE TO AREA OF INVESTIGATION	SCOPE AND RICHNESS
• What information does the text provide on the topic? • How might the text help me accomplish the purpose for my research?	• How is the text related to the specific area I am investigating? • Which of my paths of inquiry might the text provide information for? • Which inquiry questions might the text help me address? How?	• How long is the text and what is the scope of the topic areas it addresses? • How rich and extensive is the information it provides? • How does the information in the text relate to other texts I have found?

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