

Austin Isaman

English 11

5th hour

Mrs. Sener Townsend

20th of December, 2022

The Credibility of Articles About Adnan Syed.

In the case of Adnan Syed's trial, a lot of the information was not very credible- that being easily disproved or biased. Due to this, he was sentenced to life in prison. This is a valuable lesson on why it's important to have credible sources so in a situation like this you may prove your innocence. I will be reviewing three news articles and breaking them down from their sources, including the author of the article to determine if they are trustworthy or not.

The first article I found was one from [The Atlantic](#). One of the first things that caught my eye was that there needed to be a work cited page for every article to prove reliability. This did not look good from the start, as you need sources before you accuse the defendant of a crime. I've also noticed they mentioned Serial by Sarah Koenig, a podcast centered around the innocence of alleged murderers. This may mean some of their information is from Serial but they never explicitly admitted that their information is from Sarah Koenig. The following piece of information I will analyze is the person who wrote the article, Sophie Gilbert. Upon my research, I found that she is employed as a staff writer at *The Atlantic* where she typically covers news on media. In the past, she worked for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *New Republic*, and *Slate*. The rating of how factual *The Atlantic*, according to [The Factual](#) is less than

seventy-five percent and their bias is moderately leftist. This isn't exactly the greatest score if you're looking for decent, un-bias, factual information. Along with the problem of not having a work cited page; I have to say that they are not a credible source.

The following article I found was from [Mercury News](#). Just like the last article, there was a lack of a work cited page. This once again was not a good start. Once again just like the last article, they mentioned the *serial* podcast, but without a work cited page there's no way to easily tell if their information was from *serial*. This article contains quotes from the trial for Adnan recently held a few months ago. The information seems decent so far but now let's take a look at who wrote this article. The person who wrote the article is Brian Witte, he is a Maryland statehouse reporter, in his job he has reported on many things dealing with incidents similar to Adnan's situation. With this and the factual rating from [media bias fact check](#) they have a very high factual rating, but they are a bit center leftist. I'd say they are very credible, but they really should have a work cited page.

The last article I found by [sky news](#), actually had a work cited page, well actually they had a few links to other articles, but that's better than the last 2. They mention *serial* just like the last 2 but it doesn't look to be copied and pasted from information on *serial*, it looks handwritten and feels like it's more honest than the last 2. But the feeling isn't enough to determine credibility so let's have a look at the writer of this article. The person who wrote this article is Olive Enokido-Lineham, she is a London-based freelance journalist so she's not exactly local to the case. But let's see some other sources on their credibility. According to [media bias fact check](#), they are very un biased, and very factual. With all of this I'd say they are very credible.

As I said earlier, Adnan lost his case in 1999 due to non-credible sources, so I broke down and reviewed articles and the people who wrote it. I was not very impressed with the lack

of work cited pages some articles had but there's nothing i can really do about it. But even though some had no work cited some were still very credible, just a work cited page would make it seem more credible without the need to look up the person who wrote it too determine it for yourself.

Works Cited

Sophie, Gilbert. *The Case Against Adnan Syed Challenges the True-Crime Playbook*. The Atlantic. MARCH 8, 2019

Brian, Witte. *Prosecutors drop charges against Adnan Syed in 'Serial' podcast case*. The Mercury

News. October 11, 2022

Reflection

In this essay I only revised a few grammatical errors, there were no comments left by you so this is almost exactly the same other than fixing said errors. What i learned from the criminal justice system is they seem to like to take shortcuts in their sentencing if it means they can convict someone. They knew there wasn't enough hard evidence but still decided to convict Adnan anyway. What i learned about podcast

production is that it's more complicated than I previously thought, there's more thought into music, effects, the voices, how they speak, and on all that they have to be as credible as possible so they don't run the risk of being admonished. My understanding of credible sources didn't change all that much, I still believe I can find the truth in sources easily enough with a little research, but I am only human and I can still be tricked into believing some bits of information.