

The Importance of Evaluation in Sociology

The list below is only a sample of popular arguments of certain sources, but they should give you an idea of what sources you should be using.

<u>Good Quality Sources</u>	<u>Poor Quality Sources</u>	<u>Anecdotal Sources</u>
Academic Journals such as the British Sociological Association	The Sun	Friends
The Guardian (Political Left Wing Bias)	The Mirror	Family
The Conversation	The Daily Sport	Music
Al Jazeera	Wikipedia*	TV/Film
The Week	Blogs*	Twitter
Discover Society	The Daily Mail	Comments from people in public areas or social media
Sociology Images	Breitbart News	Personal opinion
Academic sources such as textbooks or subject specific books	Sources which are on the extremes of political stances (Far Right and Extreme Left).	
BBC News and Radio	Research which has not been referenced	
Channel 4 News	Sources/opinions which rely on gossip/are unsubstantiated	
The i		
The Observer		
The Independent		
The Economist		

*Wikipedia and Blogs can be a useful starting point and have references which can be used. Just don't cite and reference Wikipedia's website!

Anecdotal and Poor Quality sources can be useful, but need to be used alongside Good Quality ones. This is to ensure the information you are using to make your arguments are as correct and relevant as possible. This is known as *Triangulation of Data* which means you use various types of data and see what similarities and differences there are as this helps you find the important themes and issues. These sources may also help give you a starting point on what to research. **Do not take what these sources say as fact/truth, you need to explore and do research to find out whether they are correct!**

Sources like The Sun, are helpful to see how the media portray certain stories, but they need to be used alongside other news outlets and with other data. For example, stories about Mohammed Emwazi (Jihadi John) were more likely to be hostile and want to cause harm to him if it came from Poorer Quality sources such as The Sun. Sources such as *The Sun* have also run major stories which ended up being incorrect and ruined the lives of those they wrongly accused. Make sure you check the points being made are the whole picture. We will explore the importance of this, and more, in Unit 4.

Activity Time

Have a look at some of the sources from each list and note down what the differences and similarities are between them. Make note of everything, no matter how trivial or unimportant you make think it is. Think about other sources which you may use on a daily basis such as social media news like YouTubers (The Young Turks and Democracy Now) as well as Snapchat and Instagram.

Hand in your work in class next week (week commencing 19th September 2022).