Evaluating the source and the author

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1 – Read the following and complete the chart.

Text A:

"Dr. Lina Hassan, professor of environmental science at the University of Algiers, reports that air pollution levels have doubled since 2010 based on new satellite data."

Text B:

"I think pollution is getting worse every year. People just don't care! I see it every day in my city."

Criteria	Text A	Text B
Author credentials		
Source type		
Evidence provided		
Bias or opinion		
Overall credibility		

Which text is more trustworthy? Why?

Exercise 2 – For each situation, discuss whether the source is appropriate and reliable. (Which would you use? Why or why not?)

1. Using an article from *Working Mother* magazine on family conflict for a sociology paper.

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2. Quoting *The New York Times* for a speech on innovation in China.

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3. Reading a research paper from *Educational Research Quarterly* for a project on bilingual education.

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4. Using a *TV Guide* article on crime for a paper on media effects.

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5.   Referring to a book by former First Lady Laura Bush for a discussion on presidential power.

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Exercise 3 – Choose two websites you use usually and evaluate them using the checklist below.

Criteria	First website	Second website
Website name and URL	…………………………..	
Sponsor or publisher		
Author and credentials		
Date of publication or update		
Purpose (inform / persuade / sell)		
Evidence or references		
Are links current and reliable?		
Overall reliability (High / Medium / Low)		

Exercise 4 – Read the following bios and decide who is more credible for a paper on mental health:

Author 1: Sara Brown is a freelance journalist who writes lifestyle articles for *Healthy Life Magazine.*

Author 2: Dr. Ahmed Karim is a licensed psychologist and university lecturer with 15 years of clinical experience.

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Exercise 5 – What did you learn today about identifying trustworthy sources? And how can these skills help you in your studies or daily reading?

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