

# Practice: Student-led Article Evaluation, Using RAVEN

## Introduction

For this activity, students will research and select an article based on their CTE interests. This article will provide a foundation for applying the technique of RAVEN for argument and source evaluation which will become the starting point for consideration of all student research as they advance.

Students' reflections should aim for honesty regarding the merit of the source. It does not matter if chosen sources are, in fact, academically or professionally credible or authoritative at this point; the key is recognition of issues if and where they arise. So long as students genuinely consider the information above, the source quality is not a significant consideration at this time. This tool is to help students recognize that these questions need to be satisfied positively for sources they will use in the research process, which is essential in the final assessment for Module 3.

## Student Directions

Thinking about your career interests, select a problem that is known or emerging in the field of interest and select one article to provide as a 'show and tell.' You will use this article as a space for practicing and applying *RAVEN* as a technique for source evaluation. Articles should be academic in nature and argue for a position on an issue, problem, or topic. Please read, annotate, and reflect on your thoughts regarding the article, your interest, and its argumentation.

Then, for the article, provide a reflective paragraph (100-200 words) addressing the questions under each of the following headings:

### 1. Reputation

- Who is the author?
- What is their academic/professional background?
- What is their professional reputation? (in other words, on what subjects have they published? Have they won any awards? Are there other things in their professional experience that bring them merit or accolades?)
- What is their geographical, political, cultural/personal background? How is this important to (or reflected in) their argument content or substance in your chosen article?

- Where is the piece published (by whom)? What is the publisher's background, and what does that background mean for your expectations of the article?
- Ultimately: does the source's history or status suggest reliability?

## 2. Ability to See

- What is the context in which the author wrote this piece? (i.e., time, place, relevant cultural and professional situations going on at the time)
- Does this context change what the author may have been able to account for in their argument?
- Can you recognize the differences between your values and attitudes and those represented?
- Ultimately: is the source in a position to know what they're talking about? Are they a trusted source on this issue?

## 3. Vested Interest

- What may be the personal motivation for publishing this issue?
- If the article is responding to something, what is it? Why?
- What are your motivations for reading this article?
- Were your motivations satisfied, challenged, or left unaddressed?
- Ultimately: does the source of information have anything personally at stake? Do you, the reader, have something personally at stake in the article, and do they come through for you?

## 4. Evidence

- What is the article's main argument?
- What is the supporting evidence for the argument?
- What kind of evidence is used, and is it satisfactory for the type of question (quantitative, qualitative)?
- What are the strengths and limitations of the given evidence? Is it convincing enough for the argument and the audience it is addressing?
- Can the argument be further proven or validated? (is there potential for replicated results)?
- Ultimately: does the source have the proper specialized knowledge demanded of its claims?

## 5. Neutrality

- Is the article well-rounded?
- Does it account for multiple perspectives?
- Are there perspectives glaringly missing?
- Does it address counterarguments and provide refutation?
- Does it raise additional questions?
- Does it consider the ethicality of the resulting conclusion?
- Ultimately: is the source predisposed toward any particular point of view for any of the reasons analyzed in the previous sections? Does it do real justice to its scope and limitations? Is bias problematic enough to warrant issues with the source?

Please make sure to include in your document the author, title, and source location (link or database publication information) for the article you use in this reflection.