EVALUATING INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY

The purpose of this assignment is to help you learn how to identify and evaluate scholarly articles.

Article 1. Using the database, *(Academic Search Complete)*, find the example peer-reviewed journal article shown in class. Evaluate the article using the evaluation criteria outlined on page 2 of this worksheet. Repeat for the next article.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Accuracy</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Relevancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Article 1 (In Class)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>What are the author’s qualifications?</td>
<td>Why and for whom was the research created?</td>
<td>Does the author provide citations?</td>
<td>When was the article published and does the date matter?</td>
<td>Is the article important to your research topic?</td>
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</tbody>
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| Article 2 (Your own topic) | | | | |

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libguides.uky.edu/hon301-002
**Authority**  The author’s qualifications.

*Who is the author? What makes this person knowledgeable on this topic?*

- With which institution or organization is the author associated?
- What evidence in the source points to that association?
- Does the article report on original research or is the author reporting on the research of others?

**Accuracy**  The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.

*How does the author justify the information provided in the source?*

- Does the author explain research methods?
- Is the publication containing the article peer-reviewed?
- Does the author provide citations?

**Relevancy**  The importance of the information for your needs.

*What aspects of your research question are addressed in this source?*

- How do you plan to use this source – as background information, as an example of bias, as an example of noteworthy research methodology, etc.?
- Source should provide comprehensive coverage of the topic but isn’t too general or too detailed.

**Currency**  The timeliness of the information.

*When was the article published? Does the date matter?*

- Is the author using current terminology?
- Is longer range perspective needed for a full treatment of the topic?
- Would newer research reports on the topic be more valuable?

**Purpose**  The reason the information exists.

*Why and for whom was the research created?*

- What is the objective of the study? What does the article investigate?
- Is there a sponsoring company or organization associated with the research, and what effect might that have on the reporting of the research results and how the research was conducted?