

Evaluating Sources & Using Evidence

Here at Salk Middle School we expect you to be ready to use the highest quality sources you have available to you. It is your responsibility to know your sources and be able to explain each one. This is important because it shows your respect for the knowledge out there about your subject and it demonstrates your excellence as a quality scholar.

	Scholarly	Popular	General	Uncertain
What kinds of sources?	Primary source (with details) OR Secondary source that is an expert	Secondary sources OR Primary sources (with gaps)	Secondary sources	Tertiary Sources
Who created it?	Author known and reliable	Author known but possibly biased	Author unknown	Author unknown
Who published it? Where?	Publisher known/reliable	Publisher known/reliable	Publisher known, maybe unreliable	Publisher unreliable
Credits sources?	- Footnotes - Bibliography	- Bibliography	- Missing bibliography	- Missing bibliography
Where do you typically find these sources?	- Books - Professional Journals - Archives - LOC - Research Libraries	- Books - Periodicals - Archives - LOC - Libraries	- Books - Textbook - Periodicals	- Encyclopedia - General Information Websites
How many should you use?	At least four with thorough notes in Annotated Bibliography (complete and accurate citation and detailed annotation)	Four to 10 in Annotated Bibliography (complete and accurate citation and detailed annotation)	As few as possible in A.B. (complete and accurate citation and detailed annotation)	None in Annotated Bibliography

Don't ever say, "I found it on the web." That's like saying, "I found it on a shelf." Okay, but give us details on what part of the World Wide Web. Who published it? Who are they and what makes them so great? How, when, and where did they obtain this information? What reason do they have to publish it? You need to know ALL the sources in your Annotated Bibliography like an old friend.

Evaluating Sources & Using Evidence Activity

Locate a source and go through the questions below using the grid to help you determine as much as you can about the source. You might need to conduct additional research to help answer the questions.

- 1) What is the Title of the source?

- 2) When was it published?

- 3) Who is the publisher?

- 4) Where was it published?

- 5) What evidence is there that the publisher is reliable?

- 6) Who is the author?

- 7) What evidence is there that the author is reliable?

- 8) Where did the author get their research from?

- 9) How is this source significant as compared to other sources?