

Before entering data, save this template to your own computer. Then copy and paste source table for additional entries.

Evaluating Source Material: Factors to Consider



- Relevance to research question
- Relationship to other sources: agree, disagree, expand
- Relationship to your own working hypothesis: support or contradict
- Author/Authority: reputable? knowledgeable?
- Affiliation/Sponsor: legitimate organization or publisher?
- Accuracy: well written, logical, consistent in itself and with other sources?
- Age: up to date?
- Bias v. Objectivity: conveying knowledge or selling a product/prejudice?

Name _____.

Research Log

Search question (*topic expressed in question form*):

Source #1

Complete citation for item found (use Academic Search Premier's  Save function, Expanded Academic database's citation guide  or another on-line citation program, or consult How-to Guides > [Source Citation](#) on the DBC website for help):

Information source used (*e.g. popular search engine like Google, broad-based database such as Expanded Academic ASAP, discipline-specific or alternative database such as GenderWatch, or Sites of Interest*):

Search strategy employed (*e.g. keyword= , subject heading= , author= etc.*):

Evaluation of material (*how/what will it contribute to your presentation? how accurate, thorough and reliable does it seem? how does it fit with other sources?*):

Paraphrased ideas or direct quotations to use in presentation and/or final literature review (*be sure to distinguish between paraphrases or summaries and direct quotations and to note page numbers of all material recorded here*):

Date this search was done and entry was made:
