

2-12-2016

Teaching Students to Analyze Sources of Information

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Recommended Citation

Dahlen, Sarah, "Teaching Students to Analyze Sources of Information" (2016). *Teaching Analysis Workshops*. 1.

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Teaching students to analyze sources of information

February 12, 2016

Teaching students to *analyze* sources of information

Evaluate information
versus
Analyze information

- *Evaluate* implies:
 - Student can use a set of criteria (checklist) to determine whether a source is scholarly
- *Analyze* implies:
 - Student applies critical thinking skills to determine what kind of information is appropriate for this task
- *Synthesis*:
 - Students make connections between information sources and relate to their own understanding

CHHS 212

- Ethics in health care
- GE area A (oral & written communication, critical thinking, ethics)
- Evaluate information

Scholarly Sources

1. What is a scholarly source?
2. Why are we being asked to find scholarly sources instead of other types of information?
3. How can I find scholarly sources?

What is a scholarly source?

- Written by scholars
- Written for scholars
- Published following a structure accepted by discipline
- Intent to convey new information

Why are we being asked to find scholarly sources?

- Highest standard for authority and credibility
- Expected for academic course work

How can I find scholarly sources?

- Limit database searches
- Databases with scholarly articles only
- Evaluate whether criteria are met

SBS 245

- Native American Societies
- GE area D2 (U.S. history and democratic participation)
- Analyze

- How do you determine the credibility of information?
- Why does it matter?

Authority is constructed and contextual

- Authority is constructed:
 - Different communities/groups may recognize different types of authority
- Authority is contextual:
 - Different in various situations
 - Information need dictates level of authority required/desired

What would an authoritative source be for:

- Deciding what movie to watch this weekend
- Good recipes
- Determining who to vote for in the primary elections
- Trying to convince your roommate to buy organic vegetables
- Writing an academic paper on the history of Native American boarding schools

Articles

- Brugge, Doug, and Rob Goble. 2002. The History of Uranium Mining and the Navajo People. *American Journal of Public Health*. 92, no. 9: 1410-1419.
- Lydersen, Kari. 2009. A new demand for uranium power brings concerns for Navajo groups; mining planned at a mountain considered sacred. *The Washington Post*, Oct 25, 2009.

- Who wrote this article?
- Who is the audience? Who reads articles like these?
- What are the characteristics of this article?
- For what purpose might this article be considered authoritative?

Brugge & Goble, 2002

Lyderson, 2009

Searching = Strategic
Exploration