

Name _____



Evaluating Credibility

DIRECTIONS: Answer each question below on the lines to evaluate your sources. Write your evaluation in the box.

Who is the author? Is he or she respected in their field? Do they cite sources so you can verify that what they have written is correct?

How current is the source? The importance of having current sources will depend to some extent on the topic of your research. Choose current sources if you are researching things that are experiencing rapid and continual changes, like information technology.

What is the author's purpose? Is the author objective in presenting information, or does he or she want to convince you to take a particular point of view? Who funded the research or writing? For example, you should probably be suspicious of a study funded by the National Soda Pop Foundation "proving" that soda pop is a health food. A source doesn't have to be objective to be credible; but you should be aware of the author's purpose and point of view in writing the material.

Consider the type of sources that your audience will value. What kinds of sources does your audience consult when they are seeking out information on their own?