

Research and Identifying Reliable Sources

Purpose of the Lesson:

This lesson explains the relevance of conducting research from reliable sources. When you complete this lesson...

Terms to Understand:

Bias
Primary Sources
Secondary Sources
Perspective
Thesis

Reviewing and Using the Lesson:

1. What is bias?
2. Define and distinguish between primary, secondary sources.
3. Ask these questions if in doubt of reliability:
 - a. Does the source have spelling mistakes or other errors?
 - b. Does the source have an author? Do they have other credible work or credentials?
 - c. What is the purpose of the website (education, social media, government website, etc.)?
 - d. When was the source written?
 - e. Can the information be confirmed by a second source?

Lesson Objectives:

At the conclusion of the lesson, students should be able to –

1. Explain why knowing the source is important when conducting research.
2. Explain how perspectives can influence secondary sources.
3. Describe which clues to look for when determining the reliability of a source.
4. Describe the proper procedures of research.

Teaching Procedures:

- A. Introducing the Lesson
 - a. To introduce the lesson, ask the class to imagine...
- B. Reading and Discussion
 - a. Have the class read:

i. The 5 W's of Website Evaluation

1. Who... wrote the pages and are they an expert? Does the site include contact information for the author or organization?
2. What... is the purpose of the site? What information is included? What reference sources were used?
3. When... was the site created and last updated?
4. Where... does the information come from?
5. Why... is this information useful for my purpose? Why should I use this information?

ii. Recognizing Bias in Digital Resources

1. What it is: The author reveals their point of view or opinions and preferences in his writing or presentation of information.

2. How: There are websites that may only present one side of a controversial issue in order to sway your thinking and actions.
3. Why: Some websites may try to persuade you to think a certain way or convince you to buy a certain product.

iii. **Evaluating the Credibility, Accuracy, Reasonableness, and Support of sources**

1. Attached worksheet

C. Concluding the Lesson

- a. To conclude the lesson, have students respond to the questions in the "Reviewing and Using the Lesson" section

Supplemental Activities:

1. Have students conduct research on a current event of choice as it relates to Kentucky. Use the supplemental worksheet *Analyzing Perspectives in Secondary Sources* to help guide discussion.
2. Have student conduct research on current events in Kentucky.

Kentucky Youth Assembly/Kentucky United Nations Assembly Tie-In:

1. Navigating the LRC
2. Schedule a bill writing workshop with your Regional Director!

Supplemental Lesson Resources:

- Quick reference guide to the Kentucky Virtual Library (KVL)
- Historiography Worksheet: Analyzing Perspectives in Secondary Sources
- Evaluating the Credibility, Accuracy, Reasonableness, and Support of sources checklist.
- Conducting Online Research PowerPoint