

Evaluating Information Applying the PARCA Test



Passed!

Proceed to the next step.



Stop!

Source is not appropriate.

Purpose: *The reason the information exists.*

- What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial or are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?

- The information provided is balanced, objective or factual.

- The information provided is biased, subjective or opinionated.

Authority: *The source of the information.*

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- Is the author qualified to write on this topic?
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net

- The author of this website is...
- The qualifications of the author or group are...

- I cannot identify the author of this website.
- I cannot identify what the qualifications of the author or group.

Relevance: *The importance of the information for your needs.*

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?

- The intended audience of this website is...
- The information on this website strongly relates to my topic.

- I cannot identify the intended audience of this website.
- The information on this website does not relate to my topic.

Currency: *The timeliness of the information.*

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work well?

- It was updated on...

- I cannot tell when this website was last updated.

Accuracy: *The reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content.*

- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?

- The sources the authors use to back up their comments are...
- The conclusions drawn or information provided are consistent with the other authors' comments.

- I cannot tell what sources the authors used to back up their comments.
- The conclusions drawn or information provided are not consistent with other authors' comments.