



AUTHORITY IS CONSTRUCTED & CONTEXTUAL

Think critically about all types of information, regardless of format.
Ask questions about the author, purpose, and context of the information. Recognize the value of diverse ideas and viewpoints.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- How is the credibility of the source determined?
 - Which factors influence a source's authority?
 - Which points of view are expressed and which views might be missing?
 - Whose voice or community does the information present?
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HOW IT WORKS

FIRST

Define types of authority, such as subject expertise, position of power, or personal experience

Use research tools and types of authority to determine the credibility of sources. Understand that all information reflects a point of view which can affect its credibility

THEN

Recognize that information is perceived differently based on the format in which it is packaged, who created the information, and who examines the information

FINALLY



INFORMATION HAS VALUE

Information has value in many ways: as a product that is bought and sold, as a means to influence, and as a means of education and understanding in the world. Legal, social, and economic factors influence information production and dissemination.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What is the purpose of this information?
- Who has access to this information and who does not? Why?
- When and how can this information be reused? What are the restrictions on reuse?
- How does the value of your online personal information and history of interactions affect the information you receive online?

HOW IT WORKS

FIRST

Recognize your opportunity for multiple roles: as a contributor or creator, as well as a consumer of information

Understand your rights and responsibilities when participating in a community that creates or uses information

THEN

Give credit to the original ideas of others through proper attribution and citation

FINALLY



INFORMATION CREATION IS A PROCESS

When information is created to communicate a message, the format and means of delivering the message are deliberate choices, and they reflect the research process.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- How do the authors' choices of format and delivery of their information affect how that information might be used and perceived?
- Which elements of the creation process (such as research methods, review processes, or time constraints) may be indicators of quality or accuracy?
- How are the various types of information products valued in different settings, such as academia or a workplace?

HOW IT WORKS

FIRST

Select sources based on how the information product as well as the process used to produce it indicate its quality and usefulness in your own research setting

Determine the format and delivery method most appropriate for the purpose and intended audience of your own research

THEN

Recognize that your information product - whether a dissertation, case study, or tweet - reflects the process and time you invested in its creation

FINALLY



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Timeliness

Depth of Analysis

Breaking News

Internet,
Radio, Social
Media, TV

News Stories

Newspapers,
Government
Information

Magazines

Scholarly Articles & Books

Academic
Journals,
Government
Reports

Books

Reference
Works,
Documentaries,
Textbooks



RESEARCH AS INQUIRY

Research is an open-ended discussion. Engage with information by tapping into your intellectual curiosity, asking questions, and being flexible - ambiguity can help the research process.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What do you already know about the topic, and what do you need to explore further?
- What is the dialogue or debate surrounding your topic?
- Think about likely reliable sources. Who might produce this information?
- Has your research taken you down an unexpected path? Should you modify your focus?

HOW IT WORKS

FIRST

Determine the appropriate nature and extent of your research

Deal with complex research by breaking complicated questions into simple ones

THEN

Use various research methods to find the information you need

FINALLY



SCHOLARSHIP AS CONVERSATION

Scholarship is an ongoing dialogue in which creators and consumers of information share, critique, and refine ideas and research findings. As you research, you are participating in this conversation.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- How and where does scholarship occur in your field?
- How does the current system of academic publishing privilege certain voices and information?
- Have you sought a variety of perspectives?
- Do you have the information you need to cite your sources?

HOW IT WORKS

FIRST

Respond to and cite the work of others in your own research

Contribute to the scholarly conversation at an appropriate level for your expertise

THEN

Critically evaluate contributions made by others in class, during office hours, at a conference, etc.

FINALLY



SEARCHING AS STRATEGIC EXPLORATION

Realize that information sources vary in content, format, and relevance to your needs, depending on the nature and extent of your research. Be flexible and understand that your first attempts are just starting points.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What is the nature and extent of your research?
- What type(s) of information do you need?
- Who produces the type(s) of information you need?
- What questions will help you search for this information?

HOW IT WORKS

FIRST

Determine the nature and extent of your research and the type(s) of information you need

Identify the sources that will provide you this type of information (scholars, governments, news agencies, etc.)

THEN

Design search strategies to help you find this information, and refine as necessary based on the search results

FINALLY