

CREDIBLE RESEARCH SOURCES AND UNDERSTANDING APA



By the end of this class, we will be able to...

- Understand the key elements of writing
- Distinguish what makes a “good” source and a “bad” source
- Differentiate between “scholarly” and “professional” sources of writing
- Understand the basic principles of APA
- Begin to assemble APA entries

Brain Drain

We all “know” what sources are not credible, but in order to recognize good sources, we need to understand what makes a “bad” source.

- What are some sources that are NOT credible for academic writing?
- **WHY** are these sources not appropriate?

Scholarly Journals

- Scholarly journals are like “magazines for nerds” – they contain all the latest research on the academic discipline that a person studies
- These journals are usually run by academic institutions or associations and the research is done by experts in the field

So does all my research have to come from journals?

Not necessarily. If you are doing a general interest topic OR if you are just looking for a general overview, contemporary magazines are a great place to start.

For example:

- *Cosmopolitan*
- *Canadian Living*
- *Sport's Illustrated*
- *Maclean's*

Professional v. Academic Sources

Academic Sources:

- Are written by experts in the field. These sources are usually found in **academic journals or books**, and can be accessed via your university/college library databases.
- ***Credible* academic articles are **peer reviewed**:**
 - Other experts in the field have verified their research and credibility

Professional Sources

- Are written by anyone with experience in the field.
 - ▣ Often times, professional articles will take the information found in academic articles and dilute the information so that the general public can understand it.
- The author usually has some form of **credibility through experience**.
- These sorts of resources can be found in magazines, newspapers, interviews, general websites, videos, newsletters, etc.

Types of Sources

Professional



- Multiple audience
- Uses primary research as secondary sources – dilutes information
- Journals, Magazines, Pamphlets

PRIMARY
SOURCES

Ex.

Government
Website or
Document

Academic

- Simple audience
- Is primary research – forms conclusions and investigates
- Reports, essays, abstracts

ANY
QUESTIONS
?

What the heck IS this APA thing?

- Academic conventions and copyright law require that you acknowledge when you use the ideas of others. In most cases, this means stating which book or journal article is the source of an idea or quotation.

Why do I have to cite?

Citing is important for a number of reasons:

- Gives credit to others for their hard work
- It shows your prof. that you are able to follow directions and instructions
- Tells your reader where to go to find more information