



ELA Virtual Learning

# English II

May 11, 2020



## English II

### Lesson: May 11, 2020

### **Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can evaluate the credibility of sources and the information the source provides.

# BELL RINGER



The internet is full to the brim with information. But is it reliable? Up-to-date? Accurate?

**Consider your personal use as well as academic use of the internet and answer the questions below.**

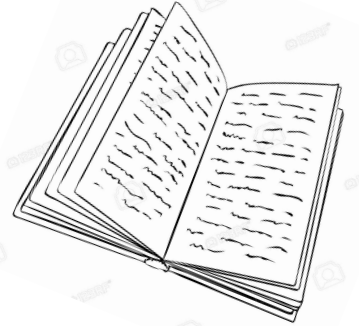
- **What website do you get information from the most for personal interests?**
- **What website do you get information from the most for academic work?**
- **How do you know these websites are trustworthy sources of information?**

## KEY TERMS

Congratulations! If you completed the bell work, you've helped demonstrate the importance of **evaluating source credibility**.

A **source** is a place someone gets information from when conducting research, formally (using a library database to research socioeconomic changes to a country for an essay in history class) or informally (using Google to research Michael Jordan's career statistics to settle an argument with your friend). Sources can be in print (books, magazines, newspapers) and online (websites, databases).

**Credibility** is the quality of being trustworthy and believable.



As useful as the internet can be, it can also be full of inaccurate and unreliable information.

When performing research, whether it's for personal curiosity or academic purposes, it's crucial to evaluate source credibility.

In order to do this, use the C.R.A.P. Test!

**C**urrency  
**R**eliability  
**A**uthorship  
**P**urpose





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**Currency** is how new or up-to-date the information is. This criteria might factor in more heavily depending on the topic. If the information is too new, for instance, it may not have had enough time to be verified by other sources.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to make sure your source's information is current:

- When was the source published?
- Is it current enough for your topic?
- Does it have a “last updated” date and/or copyright date?
- Does the source (if online) have functional links or are they broken?



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**Reliability** is how trustworthy the information itself is. Some examples of reliable sources are scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and books, and original research.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to make sure your source's information is reliable:

- Do you see a works cited, bibliography, or references page?
- Do you see links providing you with additional information?
- Do you see any errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation?



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**Authorship** is about who made the source and how credible they are. Think of your own group of friends. Some may always provide reliable information, but there's always that friend that exaggerates every story they tell!

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to make sure your source has credible authorship:

- Is the author's name and organization affiliation listed?
- Is there a description of the author's expertise and career with the subject?
- Is it sponsored by a museum, university, or professional organization?





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**Purpose** means for what reason the source was created. If the purpose is to entertain, you may not want to take the information seriously. If the purpose is to persuade, the information may be accurate, but full of bias, or being for or against someone or something.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to make sure your source's information has a strong purpose:

- Does the information provide point-of-views and evidence from all sides of an issue?
- Do you see bias? If so, how important is a lack of bias to your issue?



# PRACTICE

Now that we have reviewed how to evaluate source credibility, let's practice by looking at an online news article.

Use the information from slides 4-9 to evaluate the credibility of the *New York Times* article "J. Crew becomes first major retailer to declare bankruptcy" (linked [here](#)).

As you read and evaluate the source, answer the questions below. Make sure to include at least one piece of textual evidence and explanation in your response.

- **Overall, is this article a credible source for information about business and the Coronavirus?**
- **What component of the C.R.A.P. Test (currency, reliability, authorship, and purpose) did you find weakest for this source?**
- **Which component of the C.R.A.P. Test did you find strongest for this source?**



# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*

- **Check your answer to make sure your response meets the following criteria:**
  - **Did you write in complete sentences and answer the questions?**
  - **Did you use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?**
  - **Did you provide a claim, evidence, and explanation?**
  - **Did you provide an in-text citation for your evidence?**

# PRACTICE ANSWER KEY *(Answers will vary)*



Overall, is this article a credible source for information about business and the Coronavirus? What component of the C.R.A.P. Test did you find weakest for this source? Which component did you find strongest for this source?

Overall, “J. Crew becomes first major retailer to declare bankruptcy” is a credible source for information. The component of the C.R.A.P. Test that felt weakest was authorship because an individual author is not listed, nor are any credentials for the organization of the Associated Press. The component that was strongest was reliability. Not only was the article free of any basic grammatical and spelling errors, but it also had a variety of links that took the reader to the information’s original source. For instance, the article states, “Analysts are expecting per-share profit of 88 cents, down 45 percent.” (AP, page 1). To cite their source of information, the article provides a link to Yahoo Finance. The link functions properly and proves that the information provided is trustworthy.



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Source Credibility

- [Evaluating Credibility for Sources](#)
- [Navigating Digital Information \(Crash Course\)](#)



## EXTENDED ACTIVITY

Want more practice **evaluating source credibility**? Take a look at the website linked [here](#) and answer the questions below.

- **When was this information first published and last updated?**
- **Who is the author or creator of this web page? Are they trustworthy experts?**
- **Are there links to additional sources? Is there a works cited or references page?**
- **For what purpose was this web page created? To entertain, inform, or persuade?**
- **Overall, how do you know this information and the source is credible?**



# REFLECTION

Today's learning targets are listed below:

- 1. I can evaluate the credibility of sources and the information the source provides.**

On a scale of 1-5, how confident do you feel with each of today's learning targets?  
What did you struggle on? What did you understand the best?

**1 = I still need to work on it**  
**5 = I know I've mastered it!**