



English Virtual Learning

# English IV

May 11, 2020



Lesson: May 11, 2020

## **Objective/Learning Target:**

- I can conduct research to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem and gather multiple relevant, credible sources.
  - I can evaluate the credibility of a source.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response and include textual evidence.

## Bell Ringer:

On a piece of paper or on a Google Doc you will use for this lesson, respond to the following prompt:

**What makes a person credible? What kind of people are you more likely to believe/trust?**



## Background:

- In last week’s virtual learning lessons, we discussed several different aspects of rhetoric, including but not limited to:
  - Ethos, Pathos, and Logos (review [HERE](#))
  - Bias (conscious or unconscious preference toward something, or away from something else)
  - Logical Fallacies (review [HERE](#))
- Used together, these aspects of rhetoric can help you determine what a “good source” is, and help you identify “fake news” before you or your loved ones fall for it.
- One of the biggest aspects of evaluating sources in research and news is *author credibility*, which ties into the rhetorical appeal *ethos* as it requires you to identify an author’s believability, expertise, and general trustworthiness. Today, we will be focusing on this specifically, but the ideas from last week can all be used to help you identify author credibility as well, so feel free to review the ideas above.

# Learn:

- First, watch the video linked below.
  - Watch: [Author Credibility - Why is it so important?](#)
- The video outlined the *RADAR* method as one you can use to evaluate sources. The *RADAR* method is as follows:
  - Rationale - what was the purpose of writing the article/source?
  - Authority - is the author an authority/expert in the subject?
  - Date - is the text recent?
  - Accuracy - is the text peer reviewed by other scholars, or supported by experts?
  - Relevancy - is the text useful to your own research?

## Practice:

- You are writing an informative essay about global warming. While researching you come across the following article. On your paper or Google Doc, evaluate the article described below using the RADAR method.
- ◆ Title: The Causes and Effects of Global Warming
- ◆ Year: 2018
- ◆ Publication: Science Monthly (peer reviewed journal)
- ◆ Author: Dr. Janet Smith
- ◆ Author's Bio: Dr. Janet Smith is a professor of Earth Sciences with a focus on climate studies at XX Ivy League University. Dr. Smith has studied climate change and the impact of pollution since 1991 and has written two best-selling academic books on the subject.

# Practice Answer Key:

*(Answers will Vary)*

- **Rationale:** the article was probably written to inform, and while the article isn't real to read, the title suggests that the article will be a factual essay.
- **Authority:** The author of the journal is a college professor with a degree in the subject who has studied the topic for over a decade. This makes them an authority in the topic.
- **Date:** The article was written in 2018, meaning it is very recent (within the last five years) and mostly up-to-date.
- **Accuracy:** This article is published in peer reviewed journal, which means that it was reviewed by other experts in the field.
- **Relevancy:** If the essay is supposed to be an informative essay about global warming, the article should be a good resource, as it is an informative article about the same topic.

## Practice:

- Use the information from your notes (refer back to the text and re-watch the video if needed) to answer the following prompt on your notebook paper:
  - ➔ **How could you use the RADAR method when evaluating articles and sources you see online, and how can you apply it to your social media usage?**



# Practice Answer Key:

*(Answers will Vary)*

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
  - Did you write in complete sentences and use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
  - Did you answer every part of the prompt?
  - Did you support and explain your answer using 3 details from the source text?

**See next slide for sample proficient answer.**

# Practice Answer Key:

*(Answers will Vary)*

## Sample Proficient Answer:

*The RADAR method is one that should be incredibly helpful to research and finding news online. Most of what I look at casually when online is not out of peer reviewed journals, so the first thing I can do is evaluate the website that articles come from and the authors writing the articles - this falls into the “authority” element of the RADAR method. For example, if I were looking at a business article, a website like “Forbes” is known for being reliable in the field, and then I would research the author to determine if they’re an expert and know what they’re talking about. When looking at posts and articles on social media, I can eliminate articles with an anonymous author or websites that do “attention grabbing” articles for clicks, like “boredpanda.” I should also look at the dates of posts, especially social media posts and articles, because on social media, old posts can circulate years after the fact and then new viewers don’t realize the issue is old, or has been debunked. Last, I should evaluate the rationale, or the purpose of the article. If an article seems like its main purpose is to shock/wow readers, it’s probably less factual or trustworthy than other sources. Overall, on social media, I should avoid sharing information I can’t verify using the RADAR method, because if this information is unavailable, that probably means that the source isn’t trustworthy.*

If you want to learn more...

Author credibility can be a little harder to discern when online - for some extra information on how to evaluate a website, feel free to check out [this resource](#).

