

Determining the Credibility of Sources



*Two Locations: In the Lyman Beecher Brooks Library, First Floor
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Introduction

In this workshop, participants will explore how to determine the credibility of sources.





Europeans first settled in present-day New York City in 1608. By 1656, there were only 1,000 people living there. The city's population would not reach one million until the late 1870s. This increase in population was bolstered by European immigrants who mostly sailed from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Italy, and Eastern Europe. Between 1892-1924, approximately 12 million immigrants relocated to New York City and its surrounding areas. Because many of the newly arrived people did not speak English and/or were unfamiliar with American culture, they formed communities of their own where they continued the customs of their homelands. Today, New York City is home to communities such as Little Italy, Chinatown, Little Senegal, Koreatown, and Woodlawn Heights, which has a noticeable Irish-American population.

Read the paragraph and point out each sentence that should include a citation.



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Utilizing Sources

Whether you are writing an informative or a persuasive paper, including outside sources *adds credibility*.

Outside sources include (but are not limited to) *academic journals, news articles, books, and even interviews*.

Avoiding Plagiarism

Many students who plagiarize do it *unintentionally* by not properly crediting their sources.

Some types of information that must be cited include:

- **Statistical data**: information that can be charted or graphed.
- **Specialist information**: information that a highly trained or educated professional would know.





Signal Phrases

According to the New York Times, the population of New York City is 8.4 million.



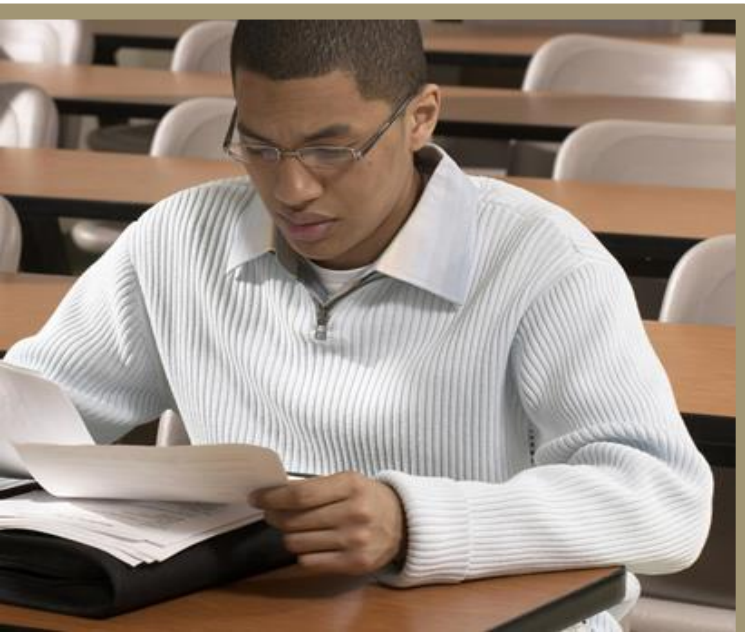
The New York Police Department states the crime rate in the Bronx has been decreasing since 2014.



Residents between the ages of 45-60 prefer public transportation over ride share apps in New York City, *according to a recent joint study conducted by New York University, Columbia University, and Brooklyn College.*



Quoting



Whether you are directly quoting a source or putting it in your own words, you must properly give credit to the source.

After years of moving up the ladder to become a manager in charge of five food shops and 66 employees, she moved to the Champagne region of France to launch her brand. And Romelle is determined that she will not be the only woman of color in the Champagne world.

- Avoid plagiarizing by either surrounding the text in quotation marks, or re-writing it in your own words and citing it based on the citation format (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)



Option 1: Direct Quote

According to CNN, “After years of moving up the ladder to become a manager in charge of five food shops and 66 employees, she moved to the Champagne region of France to launch her brand. And Romelle is determined that she will not be the only woman of color in the Champagne world” (Jones, 2021).



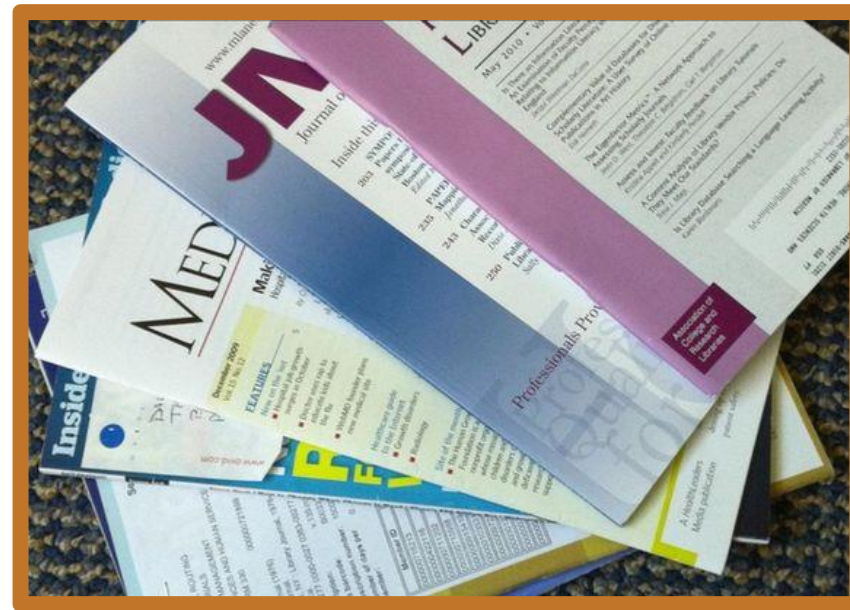
Option 2: Paraphrase

Romelle spent years advancing to a managerial role in five food shops with 66 employees before moving to the Champagne region where she founded her own brand. She is working to ensure she will not be the only woman of color working in the sommelier industry (Jones, 2021).

Newspapers, academic journals, and scholarly magazines are terrific sources for your writing. The information is fact-checked, but it is a good idea to see if other sources correlate with the information you are using.

If you are unsure if you should incorporate material from a source, consider the following questions:

- *Is the information recent?*
- *Is the author an expert or knowledgeable in the field?*



Printed Sources





Interviews

Research can involve interviews, but memories can be faulty.

If possible, *cross-reference* your information for accuracy.



Many websites (especially news outlets) are biased, so it is critical that you *fact-check* and *cross-reference* before using the website as a source.

If you use Wikipedia, use its sources as your sources. Wikipedia does not require cited information, so approach it with caution.



Electronic Sources



Should the writer use this source?

“NASA’s website states that there will be a complete solar eclipse in December, but it will only be viewable from Antarctica.”

Hope is writing a paper on astronomy. She is considering writing “The next solar eclipse can only be viewed from Antarctica”

Should she write this? Why or why not?



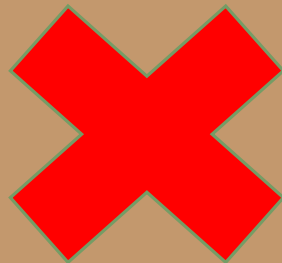
Should the writer use this source?



Angela should confirm this is true from an unbiased source, such as the Department of Education, before including the statistic in her paper.

“Senator Smith is running for re-election. She just tweeted that her state has the highest literacy rate in the country.”

Angela is writing a paper on literacy. She is considering writing “This state has the highest literacy rate in the country.”



Should she write this? Why or why not?

Should the writer use this source?

“This Washington Post’s article states that 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest is in danger of being destroyed.”

Carl is writing a paper on climate change. He is considering writing “John King, an environmentalist, writes in the Washington Post that 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest is in danger of being destroyed.”



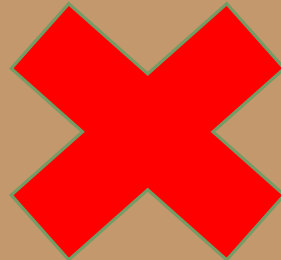
Should he write this? Why or why not?



Should the writer use this source?



James should use a more recent article. Although in this case, the statistic may not have dramatically changed, recent sources add validity to your paper. If you cannot find a more recent article, use contemporary information that validates your argument.

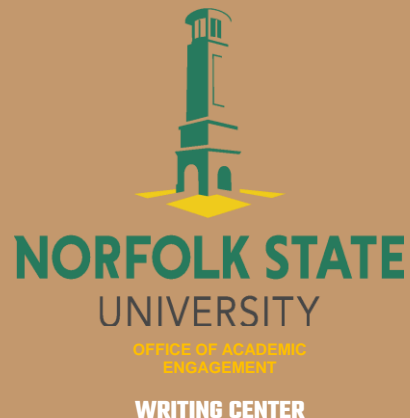
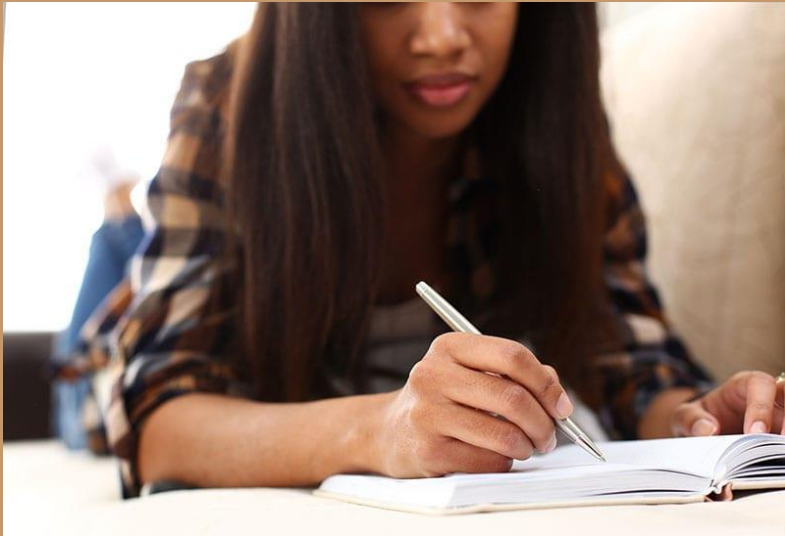


“In this 2007 sociology journal, the researcher found that less than 3 percent of people living in rural Alabama considered themselves non-religious.”

James is considering writing “The Journal of Rural American Culture finds less than 3 percent of Alabama residents classify themselves as non-religious.”

Should he write this? Why or why not?

REVIEW



Using outside sources adds credibility to your paper.

Avoid unintentional plagiarism by stating where you are getting your information from.

Newspapers, magazines, journals, interviews, and online resources provide beneficial information, but be sure you know when and how to use them.

Reflection

Student Workshop Evaluation



Faculty Workshop Evaluation



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