

Point Scoring Rubric for Measuring the Quality of Bibliographic Sources

[\(Refer to “Further Explanations” for definitions and details.\)](#)

	5	4	3	2	1
*Articles	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific peer-reviewed articles from scholarly journals	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific articles from magazines, newspapers, and trade journals	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related articles from magazines, newspapers, and trade journals	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related from any credible publication	<input type="checkbox"/> *Opinions/comments from any credible publication [ex: letter to the editor]
Books	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific book or chapter from a university or scholarly press	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific book or chapter from a popular press or self-published author with authority/credibility	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related from scholarly or popular press	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related from scholarly or popular press	<input type="checkbox"/> Info from book reviews, abstracts, or excerpted book pages on web [did not read book]
Dissertations / Theses	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specifically related	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related	<input type="checkbox"/> Quotes/paraphrases from the introduction or conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Quotes/paraphrases from the abstract [did not read the text]
Government Publications / Reports (Gov & IGO)	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific that is primary or contains primary source references/links	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related that is primary or contains primary source references/links	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related that may or may not contain primary source references/links	<input type="checkbox"/> Source that mentions gov/IGO reports or stats but contains no primary source references/links	<input type="checkbox"/> Sources deceptively disguised as gov supported or officially representing gov views
Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific from major news outlet (international & national) or media production company - official production	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related from major news outlet or media production company - official production	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related from minor news outlet (state & local) or media production company	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related with authority <input type="checkbox"/> Hosted (uploaded) video or audio with verifiable content	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related without authority <input type="checkbox"/> Hosted (uploaded) video or audio with unverifiable content
Reference Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject specific [ex: <i>Encyclopedia of Human Trafficking</i>]	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related [ex: <i>Encyclopedia of Political Science</i>]	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject generally related with authority [ex: <i>World Almanac</i>]	<input type="checkbox"/> Any material with authority used inappropriately [ex: outside of scope]	<input type="checkbox"/> Any material without authority
Speeches / Testimonials / Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Subject expert with supporting materials/links [published, recorded, or social media]	<input type="checkbox"/> First-person involvement with objective supporting materials/links [published, recorded, or social media]	<input type="checkbox"/> Official social media or blog post from a gov site, major publication, or credible org	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional or opinion content with supporting materials [published, recorded, or social media]	<input type="checkbox"/> Emotional or opinion content without supporting materials [published, recorded, or social media]

	5	4	3	2	1
Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/> Primary statistical source – the original creator or publisher of the data- must be authoritative	<input type="checkbox"/> Source refers to statistics with a full credit or a direct link to the primary source [easy to find]-must be authoritative	<input type="checkbox"/> Source refers to statistics with a partial credit to the primary source [difficult to find] <input type="checkbox"/> Source is from a for-profit with authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Source supports a fund raising effort (purpose of source can be tainted) <input type="checkbox"/> Source is from a for-profit without authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Source refers to statistics with no primary source credits [no clues] <input type="checkbox"/> Source contains outdated statistics [exception for historical value]
Studies / Reports / Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> From NGO or major non-profit with up-to-date info; original creator of data <input type="checkbox"/> From non-partisan Think Tank that does not establish a point of view on the topic; original creator of data	<input type="checkbox"/> Delivered at an academic or professional conference by author with credentials (often but not always published as a proceeding)	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication is politically weighted but separates fact and opinion <input type="checkbox"/> From non-partisan Think Tank that establishes a point of view on the topic	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication is politically weighted and opinion biased <input type="checkbox"/> From Think Tank with stated partisan views/funding	<input type="checkbox"/> From for-profit or private source disguised as an authoritative or objective information distribution point <input type="checkbox"/> Contains extreme views (beyond stating a platform) [not factually based]
**Websites / Webpages		<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related and meets all CRAAP Test criteria			<input type="checkbox"/> Subject related but does not meet all CRAAP Test criteria

Further Explanations:

Subject Specific - all of the source content (100%) is devoted to a single subject that corresponds to the student's chosen research topic

Subject Related - majority (more than 50%) of the source content corresponds to the student's chosen research topic

Subject Generally Related - minority (less than 50%) of the source content corresponds to the student's chosen research topic

*If an assignment requires an opinion article or if an opinion article is truly appropriate for the research subject, then the article point scale will be adjusted to integrate opinion into the other article categories which emphasize the publication source.

Web-based information that does not fit within the other category types is evaluated based on the [CRAAP Test](#) criteria: **credibility, **r**elevance, **a**uthority, **a**ccuracy, and **p**urpose of the information. [Example: reports, articles, statistics, and media accessed from websites are evaluated under those respective categories not under the website category.]

Zero points will be given for:

- Any source that the instructor or librarian cannot identify or find, including reasons related to careless citation errors.
- Unethical use of information. [Examples: incorrect information or information improperly taken from its original context--intentional or unintentional misrepresentation.]
- Lazy use of tertiary sources [Examples: about.com, ehow.com, Ezine.com, globalissues.org, and Wikipedia]. Students should know how to apply critical thinking skills in order to find primary and secondary sources that can authenticate/verify all information selected for use.