

Source Evaluation Matrix

Name _____

An annotated bibliography includes a full and properly constructed citation for a book, a book chapter, or article and a short (100-150 word) paragraph in which you summarize and assess the item being examined. Use this matrix to help in assessment. Check the box that best reflects your judgment about the item in each category. Then choose three or four of the most important categories based upon your judgments. Express your judgments in concise sentences. This will form the assessment portion of your annotation. Identifying the strongest and weakest points of your item for your reader is a good strategy. Finally, the last category of relevance is where you will state whether this item is useful or not for someone else researching a similar topic.

Authorship	Author(s) are identified, have credentials that can be verified, and have expertise in the subject area. <input type="checkbox"/>	Author(s) are identified and have credentials that can be verified. <input type="checkbox"/>	Author(s) are identified but credentials cannot be verified or are not related to the subject area. <input type="checkbox"/>	Author(s) cannot be identified. <input type="checkbox"/>
Publisher	Publisher is reputable, i.e. a well-known academic press or is publishing an academic journal. <input type="checkbox"/>	Publisher is reputable commercially but perhaps not academically such as publishing a trade journal. <input type="checkbox"/>	Publisher is known but is not a respected academic or commercial press. <input type="checkbox"/>	Publisher is unknown, i.e., a vanity or self-publisher. <input type="checkbox"/>
Currency	The source is recent (within past 3-5 years) and is relevant to the topic or subject. <input type="checkbox"/>	The source is 5-10 years old but has historical value—is considered a classic article in the field or on the subject material. <input type="checkbox"/>	The source is more than 10 years old and has little historical value or relevance to the topic or subject. <input type="checkbox"/>	There is no publication or copyright date for the source. <input type="checkbox"/>
References	A mix of sources from books and scholarly articles are fully cited in the reference page(s). <input type="checkbox"/>	Some scholarly sources are cited in the reference page(s) along with non-scholarly or web based sources. <input type="checkbox"/>	Few sources are cited in the reference page(s) or mostly non-scholarly sources are cited. <input type="checkbox"/>	No sources are cited in the reference page(s). <input type="checkbox"/>
Writing	The writing is clear and the ideas expressed can be understood. Technical language if used is understandable. <input type="checkbox"/>	The writing is hard to understand because of the complexity of the subject or topic. <input type="checkbox"/>	The writing is accessible but oversimplifies the information being conveyed. <input type="checkbox"/>	The writing is hard to understand because it is full of confusing sentences, poor word choices, or has grammatical errors. <input type="checkbox"/>
Reasoning	Evidence is provided that clearly supports the claim. Opposing claims are recognized and addressed. <input type="checkbox"/>	Evidence is provided in support of the claim but is either weak or opposing claims are not recognized or addressed. <input type="checkbox"/>	Little evidence is presented in support of the claim, faulty reasoning is used, or a preference for one side of the argument is evident. <input type="checkbox"/>	The source doesn't present evidence at all, relying instead upon opinions. <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevance	The information directly supports your topic and is very useful. <input type="checkbox"/>	The information may not directly support your topic but is useful for background information. <input type="checkbox"/>	The information has some relation to your topic but is not very useful. <input type="checkbox"/>	The information has little to no relationship to your topic and is not useful. <input type="checkbox"/>