Teaching students to analyze sources of information

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Teaching students to *analyze* sources of information

Evaluate information

versus

Analyze information
• **Evaluate** implies:
  – Student can use a set of criteria (checklist) to determine whether a source is scholarly

• **Analyze** implies:
  – Student applies critical thinking skills to determine what kind of information is appropriate for this task

• **Synthesis**:  
  – Students make connections between information sources and relate to their own understanding
CHHS 212

- Ethics in health care
- GE area A (oral & written communication, critical thinking, ethics)
- Evaluate information
Scholarly Sources

1. What is a scholarly source?

2. Why are we being asked to find scholarly sources instead of other types of information?

3. How can I find scholarly sources?
What is a scholarly source?

- Written by scholars
- Written for scholars
- Published following a structure accepted by discipline
- Intent to convey new information
Why are we being asked to find scholarly sources?

• Highest standard for authority and credibility
• Expected for academic course work
How can I find scholarly sources?

• Limit database searches
• Databases with scholarly articles only
• Evaluate whether criteria are met
SBS 245

• Native American Societies
• GE area D2 (U.S. history and democratic participation)
• Analyze
• How do you determine the credibility of information?

• Why does it matter?
Authority is constructed and contextual

• Authority is constructed:
  – Different communities/groups may recognize different types of authority

• Authority is contextual:
  – Different in various situations
  – Information need dictates level of authority required/desired
What would an authoritative source be for:

• Deciding what movie to watch this weekend
• Good recipes
• Determining who to vote for in the primary elections
• Trying to convince your roommate to buy organic vegetables
• Writing an academic paper on the history of Native American boarding schools
Articles


• Who wrote this article?
• Who is the audience? Who reads articles like these?
• What are the characteristics of this article?
• For what purpose might this article be considered authoritative?
Searching = Strategic Exploration