Evaluating Sources

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Where to Find Sources
The first part of evaluating sources involves knowing where to look.
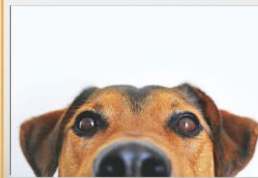
Types of Sources
There are various types of sources to consider for your essay.

Credibility
A source is only as useful as it is credible.

How to Read a Source
Identify the sections of a source, so you will read more efficiently.

Where to Find a Source

Library Sources
https://www.craftonhills.edu/current-students/library/index.php
Go to the home page on craftonhills.edu and click the library option under the student services tab.

If you are looking mostly for physical texts, you can type into the Search Catalog box to search for books in the library. After you pick search, you can choose which libraries, Crafton Hills, SB Valley, or libraries worldwide, you want to include.

Research Guides offer suggestions and tips for finding sources for specific subjects.
https://craftonhills.libguides.com/?b=g&d=a

Article Databases
craftonhills.edu>student services>library>Article Databases
https://www.craftonhills.edu/current-students/library/library-databases/index.php

EBSCO is a useful resource for most subjects and you can find a variety of scholarly and non-scholarly sources.

US Major Newspapers has access to five major newspaper sources.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context features sources on various current and controversial topics.

Films on Demand has thousands of educational videos.

Depending on your class, **Google Scholar** may be a good choice for research as well.

Library Databases

Home » Library » Library Databases

For assistance with databases or to obtain login information for off-campus access, please contact us at 909-389-3321 or 909-389-3378.

Great places to start your research

EBSCO Academic Search Complete This is a great place to start for research papers, projects, essays, etc. This database provides access to 1,000s of journals in all subject areas--English, History, Math, Science, Art, Philosophy, Psychology and much more. EBSCO Databases Search all EBSCO resources at once.

Credo Reference This is a great database to get background information on your research topic. Credo provides access to reliable information from encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographies, bilingual dictionaries and more.

Films On Demand A comprehensive collection of over 6,000 educational videos covering a wide range of topics organized appropriate for academic research.

US Major Newspapers Provides access to the five most respected newspapers in the U.S. including the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and the Chicago Tribune.

Biography Reference Center this database offers a comprehensive collection of 450,000+ full-text biographies, as well as thousands of unique narrative biographies

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A Note on finding Sources

There are various types of sources, so depending on your subject and purpose, there are different types of sources to consider.

If your professor assigns you a research paper with a requirement of four scholarly sources and four non-scholarly sources for a total of eight sources, then you will need to know what to look for.

The next section will distinguish between different types of sources as well as the difference between scholarly and and non-scholarly sources.

A recording of a speech is a primary source since the speaker is the originator of the source.

Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary Sources
Something from the person who experienced it first-hand like a reporter on the scene. This could be something like a diary, document, artifact, or direct knowledge.

Secondary Sources
A book, object, article or text that is on a subject, but is not the original source of information. A secondary source may refer to primary sources and discuss them.

Scholarly/ Non-Scholarly
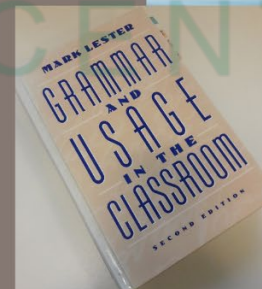
A textbook on grammar is a secondary source because it discusses things that are already agreed upon. It may reference primary sources, but it is not creating new information.

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Scholarly/Non-Scholarly Sources

Commonly, your professor will expect you to have a variety of scholarly and non-scholarly sources.

Scholarly Sources
Articles, books, and similar works that are written and peer reviewed by experts in the field. In college, most scholarly sources that professors want are peer reviewed articles.

Non-Scholarly Sources
Anything that isn't peer reviewed like a blog, website, television show, YouTube video, or work of fiction.

Scholarly Article from Gale: Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Adolescent cellphone use while driving: an overview of the literature and promising future directions for prevention

Authors: M. Kit Delgado, Kathryn J. Wanner and Catherine McDonald
Date: June 2016

From: Media and Communication (Vol. 4, Issue 3)
Publisher: Cogitatio Press

Document Type: Abstract
Length: 8,490 words
Content Level: (Level 5)
Lexile Measure: 1550L
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/mac.v4i3.536

Abstract:
Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death in adolescents, and drivers aged 16-19 are the most likely to die in distracted driving crashes. This paper provides an overview of the literature on adolescent cellphone use while driving, focusing on the crash risk, incidence, risk factors for engagement, and the effectiveness of current mitigation strategies. We conclude by discussing promising future approaches to prevent crashes related to cellphone use in adolescents. Handheld manipulation of the phone while driving has been shown to have a 3 to 4-fold increased risk of a near crash or crash, and eye glance duration greater than 2 seconds increases crash risk exponentially. Nearly half of U.S. high school students admit to texting while driving in the last month, but the frequency of use according to vehicle speed and high-risk situations remains unknown. Several risk factors are associated with cell phone use while driving including: parental cellphone use while driving, social norms for quick responses to text messages, and higher levels of temporal discounting. Given the limited effectiveness of current mitigation strategies such as educational campaigns and legal bans, a multi-pronged behavioral and technological approach addressing the above risk factors will be necessary to reduce this dangerous behavior in adolescents.

Keywords
accidents prevention; adolescent; cell phones; distracted driving; text messaging

EXPLORE

More Like This
A baby is dead in Virginia. Now will the state do something about texting while driving?
Washingtonpost.com, Oct. 19, 2016.

Transportation chief campaigns to end drivers' texting
The Washington Post, Apr. 3, 2014.

Your cellphone-crazy teen will love cracking these safety devices
Globe & Mail (Toronto, Canada), Jan. 19, 2009.

View All Related Articles

Related Subjects
- Motor vehicle drivers
- Texting while driving

Reading an article

Articles can be quite long, so feel free to read the abstract, introduction, and conclusion first, so you will know if the article is useful for your essay.

Abstract
Read the abstract first. This will give you an idea of what the article is about.

Introduction
Read the introduction to find the argument or hypothesis being presented.

Conclusion
Read this section to find out about the results or findings of the experiment.

Keeping Track
As you collect sources to use in your essay, be sure to summarize them, make notes, and find relevant quotes to use.

Citing an Article
You can either directly quote your source or paraphrase it. (For citation tips see our handouts or our Research, Essay Writing, MLA, or APA Workshops).

Notes:

Biased/Unbiased

Biased
Stay away from Biased sources that don't use clear facts or rely heavily on emotion. They sometimes only show one side of an issue.

Unbiased
Unbiased sources present their findings with facts and figures. They don't rely purely on emotion and are logical.

Logical Fallacies

Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

Authority

Works Cited

Fallacies

You may find a source that seems reliable, but is guilty of a logical fallacy, a mistake in reasoning. Make note of these fallacies and try to avoid them both in your paper and in your source material.

Fun Logical Fallacy Examples:
- Basketball players are tall, so all tall people are basketball players. -False Cause
- If we install a self-checkout in our grocery store, then the machines will take over. -Slippery Slope
- If you are not a Democrat, then you are a Republican. -Black-or-White
- You're argument can't be considered because you aren't even wearing matching socks. -Ad Hominem

strawman
Misrepresenting or exaggerating someone's argument to make it easier to attack.

false cause
Presuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.

slippery slope
Asserting that if we allow A to happen, then Z will consequently happen too, therefore A should not happen.

ad hominem
Attacking your opponent's character or personal traits instead of engaging with their argument.

special pleading
Moving the goalposts or making up exceptions when a claim is shown to be false.

loaded question
Asking a question that has an assumption built into it so that it can't be answered without appearing guilty.

the gambler's fallacy
Believing that 'runs' occur to statistically independent phenomena such as roulette wheel spins.

bandwagon
Appealing to popularity or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation.

black-or-white
Where two alternative states are presented as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist.

begging the question
A circular argument in which the conclusion is included in the premise.

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Ethos, Pathos, and Logos

You may understand a source better if you understand how they base their argument.

Ethos
-Appeal to ethics
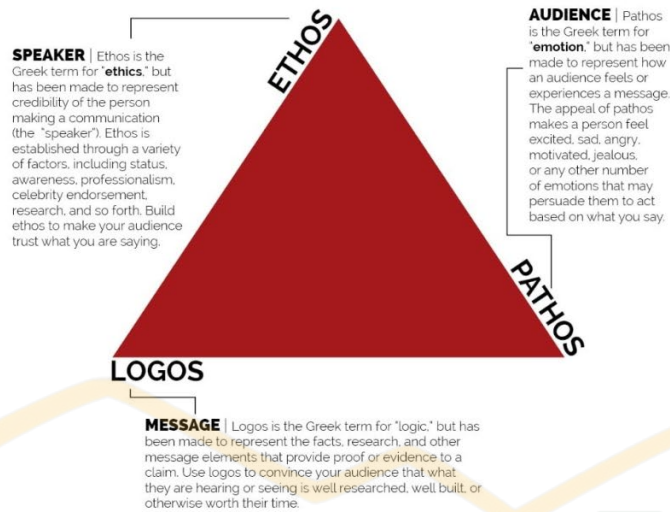-Persuade the reader by building credibility and trust.

Pathos
-Appeals to emotion
-Persuade the reader through strong emotion.

Logos
-Appeals to Logic
-Persuade the reader through evidence and research.

THE RHETORICAL TRIANGLE
AN OVERVIEW OF THE THREE RHETORICAL APPEALS

ETHOS

SPEAKER | Ethos is the Greek term for "ethics," but has been made to represent credibility of the person making a communication (the "speaker"). Ethos is established through a variety of factors, including status, awareness, professionalism, celebrity endorsement, research, and so forth. Build ethos to make your audience trust what you are saying.

AUDIENCE | Pathos is the Greek term for "emotion," but has been made to represent how an audience feels or experiences a message. The appeal of pathos makes a person feel excited, sad, angry, motivated, jealous, or any other number of emotions that may persuade them to act based on what you say.

PATHOS

LOGOS

MESSAGE | Logos is the Greek term for "logic," but has been made to represent the facts, research, and other message elements that provide proof or evidence to a claim. Use logos to convince your audience that what they are hearing or seeing is well researched, well built, or otherwise worth their time.

TheVisualCommunicationGuy.com

Beware of sources that appear to have a reasonable argument but lack enough support on both sides of the issue.

An argument may only appear strong because they purposely make the opposition weak or avoid it entirely.

Authority

Another important factor in choosing sources is authority, or whether or not what is being expressed is backed by professional knowledge and reliability.

A source may not be a traditional scholarly source but may still present the truth from a trusted person of authority such as an expert in the field.

An example of this would be a newspaper article that presents evidence from trusted doctors or scientists, even though the article itself is written by a journalist who is not an expert on the topic.

Check and see if the person/source that claims to be an authority is trustworthy before selecting it as a source.

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Works Cited

Logical Fallacies, Ad Hominem and Critical Thinking, Pinterest, https:/
/www.bing.com/images/search?
view=detailV2&ccid=sJ6A5rMF&id=9C4E9D23D7D577978C117945820010D
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TheVisualCommunicationGuy.com, https://
francinemassue.weebly.com/ethos-logos--pathos.html

"What US Presidents Voices Sounded Like." *YouTube* uploaded by Whats The
Story, 25 July 2017, https:/
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