

5 Ws of Source Analysis

<p>What: What type of source is it?</p> <p>Is it a primary or secondary source? Is it an: Opinion, news article, report, research study, artwork, government document, photograph, film, website, etc</p>	<p>Who: Who is the creator?</p> <p>Does the author have qualifications/experience that make them an authority? If an individual author is not named, is there an editor or sponsor? If a website, check for a link to a "home page" to see who is sponsoring the page? Can you see any potential bias or conflict of interest?</p>
<p>When: When was the source created/published/updated?</p> <p>What is the date of publication? When did the event being discussed in the source occur? What was happening in the world at the time the source was created??</p>	<p>Where: Where was the information published?</p> <p>Is it published in a journal, newspaper, encyclopedia, book, or website? Is the publisher a well-known and respected source of information? If a web site, consider the domain name (edu, org, gov, com, net) to determine what type of page it might be. Is there an "about" link that outlines the purpose of the site? Are they trying to sell something?</p>
<p>Why: Why was the document created?</p> <p>Why was this source created? What was the creator's main purpose? – to inform, persuade, entertain, criticise, etc. What is the author's perspective/point of view? – objective, neutral, interested, opinionated, biased, etc. Is the source's purpose trustworthy and honest?</p>	<p>How: How was it written? How was it produced?</p> <p>How did the author gather data to prepare the source? Did the creator use evidence/information from credible sources? Has the creator included in-text citations and a reference list? Does the creator use data, quotes, images, etc? If a website, do the links work? Has the source been peer reviewed or edited?</p>