



Street Cred

Evaluating Sources



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Grade Level	9th – 11th Grade	Time Frame	3-4 class period(s)
Subject	English/Language Arts	Duration	150 minutes

Essential Question

What is credibility? How do we, as writers, become experts of our craft by demonstrating credibility?

Summary

There's more than enough information at our students' fingertips, but how do they determine if that information is credible? In order to determine the credibility of a source, students first examine the credibility of individuals and then investigate their own authority and expertise on a particular topic. Students read and analyze an article, arguing for or against its credibility while quoting and citing textual evidence to support their claims. Through research, students locate an informational text and determine if the writer/article is credible and why or why not. Applying their knowledge of credibility, students locate sources and use textual information to support their own ideas. While this lesson is currently aligned only to 10th grade standards, it would be appropriate to teach in grades 9 through 11, adjusting standards as needed.

Snapshot

Engage

Students' prior knowledge concerning credibility is assessed. Furthermore, students identify and discuss qualities of credible individuals.

Explore

Students prepare brief talking points about their expertise. Much of their credibility will be based on hands-on experience. Students share their knowledge with other students and gain knowledge from their peers.

Explain

Students read a selection on credible sources and properly cite information from the article.

Extend

Students analyze an informational text for its textual evidence and use of citations, determining if and how a writer and source is credible.

Evaluate

Students research information and argue for the credibility of a source.

Standards

ACT College and Career Readiness Standards (6-12)

ARG401: Analyze how one or more sentences in somewhat challenging passages offer reasons for or support a claim

ARG402: Identify a clear central claim in somewhat challenging passages

Oklahoma Academic Standards: English Language Arts (Grade 9)

9.3.R.5: Evaluate the validity of a speaker's argument:

- distinguish the kinds of evidence (e.g., logical, empirical, anecdotal)
- distinguish substantiated from unsubstantiated claims
- analyze rhetorical appeals (i.e., ethos, logos, pathos)
- identify bias
- identify logical fallacies

9.3.R.7: Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics, using textual evidence to support their claims and inferences.

9.3.W.3: Compose argumentative essays, reviews, or op-eds that:

- introduce precise, informed claims
- include a defensible thesis
- acknowledge counterclaims or alternate perspectives
- organize claims, counterclaims, and evidence in a logical sequence
- provide the most relevant evidence to develop balanced arguments, using credible sources
- use sentence variety and word choice to create clarity and concision
- use style and tone that suits the audience and purpose

9.6.R.3: Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and validity of the information gathered.

Attachments

- [Appointment Clock - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Appointment Clock - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Appointment Clock.docx](#)
- [Appointment Clock.pdf](#)
- [Choosing Credible Sources - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Choosing Credible Sources - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Choosing Credible Sources.docx](#)
- [Choosing Credible Sources.pdf](#)
- [GIST Template - Spanish.docx](#)
- [GIST Template - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [GIST Template.docx](#)
- [GIST Template.pdf](#)
- [Street Cred Map Example - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Street Cred Map Example - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Street Cred Map Example.docx](#)
- [Street Cred Map Example.pdf](#)
- [Street Cred Rubric - Spanish.docx](#)
- [Street Cred Rubric - Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Street Cred Rubric.docx](#)
- [Street Cred Rubric.pdf](#)

Materials

- Writing materials: pens, pencils, paper, etc.
- Index cards
- Student devices with internet access

- Copies of Appointment Clocks and "Choosing Credible Sources" article

Engage

To begin this lesson, students will engage in a [Circle Maps](#) activity. This will provide a variety of ways for students to create substantive conversation centering on credibility and develop their critical thinking skills. Here's how Circle Maps works in this lesson:

1. Provide students with a Circle Map template electronically, via a teacher-provided template, or have the students draw it on their own.
2. Prompt students with the key term for this lesson: credibility.
3. In groups of three or individually, ask students to record as many descriptors (adjectives, nouns, or any words relative to the concept/main idea/key term) as possible in a teacher-allotted time span.
4. Have a representative from each group (or ask individuals) to share out some of their descriptors to maintain substantive conversation. Provide positive feedback and make relative connections between the students' shared words and the concept being covered.
5. During the sharing period, have the listening groups add ONE new word to their circle and literally circle it. This is to increase the students' depth of knowledge by making connections between their prior knowledge and new knowledge.

Teacher's Note: Circle Maps Example

An example of a Circle Map for credibility is located in the Attachments section.

After students complete the Circle Maps activity, move into a [Think-Pair-Share](#) activity in which students develop a list of people they believe are credible. Here's how Think-Pair Share works in this lesson:

1. Ask students to individually create lists of people they believe are credible. These could be family members, friends, historical figures, celebrities, etc. Students should write their generated list down.
2. Each student should then pair with a partner and share responses. Each student should feel free to edit/revise their list during this time.
3. Pairs can either choose the best response from their lists or create a shared response.
4. Each pair should share out one or two people who they agree are credible with the class.
5. The teacher should generate the whole-class list on the board.

Explore

Transitioning from the Think-Pair-Share activity, ask students to determine as a whole-class what makes the people listed credible. Pose the questions "What makes these people credible? What is their area of expertise?" Encourage students to discuss with their partners and then ask for volunteers to share out. During this activity, students should be offering reasons and support for why a person is credible.

Students come to class with certain expertise, whether it is on video games, sports, fashion, movie trivia, academics, or something else. Transferring the idea of expertise to students' lives, ask them, "What is your expertise?" Give students time (approximately five minutes) to write or list everything they know about a topic of their expertise.

Then, ask students to summarize their knowledge in a single sentence. Remind them to try and explain it "simply." You can incorporate the GIST method (20 words or less) if students require a little more structure.

Teacher's Note

The attachment "GIST Template" can be used for students during this activity. Students should ignore the Article Title/Article Source, as this activity centers on their prior knowledge and experiences. However, this GIST template can be used in its entirety later in the lesson, when students are actually working with informational texts.

For students to share their summary/GIST statement with several classmates, hand out the Appointment Clocks template (see Attachments). Students will then discuss their ideas with several classmates. Here's how [Appointment Clocks](#) works in this lesson:

1. Pass out a clock appointment handout to each students. Students walk around room and create mutual appointment times on the clock—as many as four are possible.
2. Once students have created their appointments, ask them to return to their seats and revisit their summary/GIST statement.
3. The teacher then directs the movement of the participants. When the teacher says, "Discuss your question with your 3 o'clock appointment," the participant will move to the mutual partner and discuss their summary/GIST statement concerning their area of expertise.
4. Once all participant appointments are completed, the teacher can have students return to their desks and draw a conclusion from the discussions or summarize the discussions.

Explain

To complete the previous activity, ask students to report which clock appointment (classmate) they felt was the most credible and explain why. Students could take a few minutes to write down their response before sharing out with the class.

Distribute the attached **Choosing Credible Sources** handout to students. Ask students to read the article individually or in pairs.

Optional Differentiation

Have students read different sections of “Choosing Credible Sources” according to the difficulty of the reading selections. Then create groups based upon their reading sections. Let groups use the [jigsaw](#) strategy to share what their section of the reading was about.

Advise students to work with a partner to make an argument for or against the credibility of the author and article. Instruct students to quote and cite information from the article on index cards to support their arguments.

Students should consult the [Purdue OWL](#) website as they cite information from the article.

Teacher's Note: Citation Formatting

Although this lesson does not necessarily focus on citation styles and formatting, it is good practice for students to work through quoting and citing information from a source. Using the Purdue OWL website will help students along the way.

Extend

If technology is available, direct students to one of the informational texts below for students to analyze. Students can also locate an informational text on their own. If technology is not available, print out and make copies of articles for students to read and analyze.

Optional Differentiation

Give groups an assigned article and do a round robin reading, then ask students to discuss credibility with peer from another group. A whole-class share out could follow.

Suggested articles for analysis:

- [People Who Study Most, Live Longer Claims Study](#)
- [How to Get Your Boss to Say Yes](#)
- [What's More Expensive Than College? Not Going to College](#)

Ask students to identify strong textual evidence that supports the writer as an "expert."

Encourage students to share their responses regarding the text (agree or disagree) and support their opinions with citations using the [Commit & Toss](#) instructional strategy.

Teacher's Note: Article Choice

The Commit & Toss activity (described below) will work best if all students read the same article. If students read different articles, it will be more useful for them to read and comment on a statement about the article they chose and then group up with others who read the same article to discuss their findings.

Here's how Commit & Toss works in this lesson:

- Ask each student to write down examples of strong textual evidence in the article that supports the writer as an "expert." Be sure students write why this evidence is strong and supportive of the writer's credibility.
- Instruct students to crumple their paper up and gently toss it into a box or across the room.
- Each students then collects a crumpled paper and reads it silently to him/herself. The student should comment upon the original statement and return to the owner.

Evaluate

Either assign research topics or allow students to choose a research topic of interest.

Using technology, ask students to locate three articles that can be deemed credible according to criteria discussed in class. These articles should be related to their research topic.

Students should then write paragraph over each article to support the credibility. Encourage students to consider if/how the writer is an "expert."

A further extension could involve students writing an essay using credible sources to support an argument they are making.

An example rubric that could be used to grade the research essay is located under Attachments.

Resources

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Circle Maps. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/159>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Think-Pair-Share. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/139>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Appointment Clocks. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/124>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Jigsaw. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/179>
- K20 Center. (n.d.). Commit and Toss. Strategies. <https://learn.k20center.ou.edu/strategy/119>