

The Source Credibility Guide

Origin

From where was the source retrieved?

- For Digital: What is the domain?
 - » com, .org, .gov, .net?
- For Print: Who is the publisher?
 - » Is the source printed by a well-known publishing press, or a university press, or other?
- Is the source primary or secondary?



Author

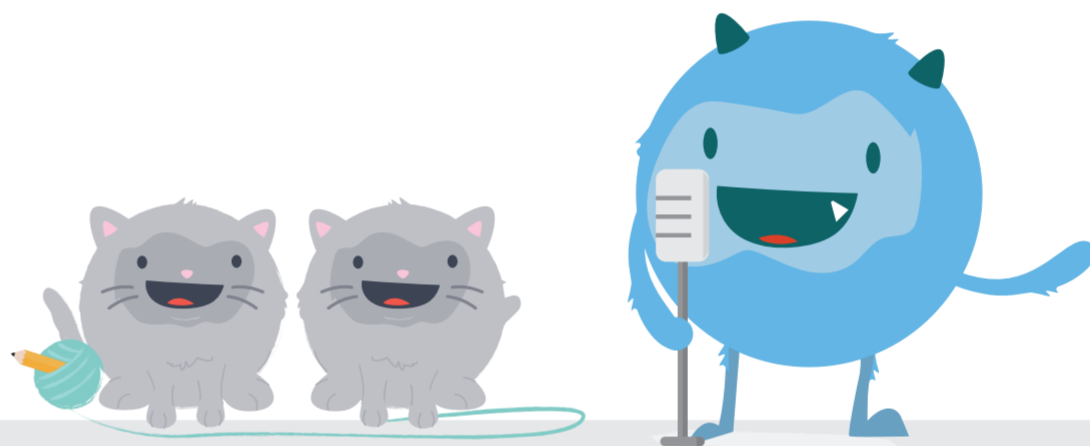
Who is the author of the source?

- How qualified is the author to write on this topic?
- Is the author sponsored by an organization?

Purpose

What is the purpose of the source?

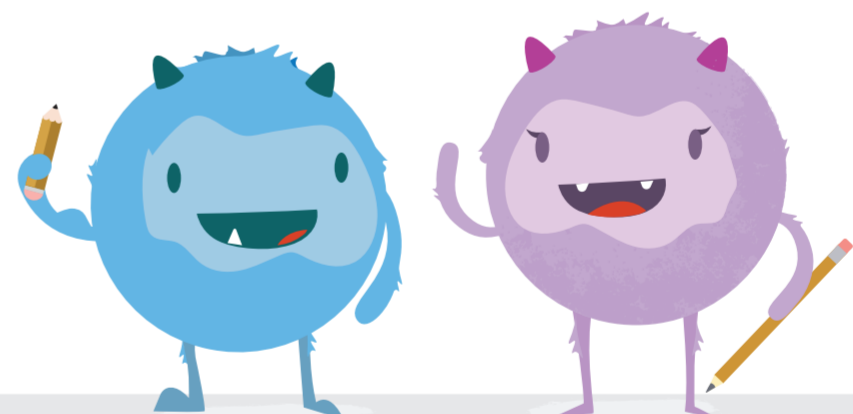
- Who is the intended audience?
- Why was the source written?
 - » Inform? Opinion? Entertain? Persuade? Sell?



Perspective

From what perspective is the source written?

- What is the author's point of view?
 - » What is the tone or voice of the writing?
 - » Is the writing biased/unbiased? Does there seem to be an agenda?



Academic

How scholarly is the source?

- Is the content supported by evidence?
 - » Are there references? Does the author cite credible sources?
- Is the source peer reviewed?

Relevance

How relevant is the source?

- When was the content published?
 - » How current is the source and/or when was it last updated?
- Does the source fit the needs of the assignment?
 - » Does the assignment require an overview, or something specific?
 - » Does the assignment require primary sources?

