

ABCs of Evaluating Evidence Grades 7 & 8

	 PROCEED VERIFIABLE, CREDIBLE, RELIABLE	USE WITH CAUTION POSSIBLE PROBLEMS	WARNING  SHOULD BE SKEPTICAL
A uthor or Sponsor (an organization may be the author)	Author's name is present. Author is qualified in this field. If a web page, it is posted by a credible group: university, agency, etc.	Author is named, but searching may be necessary to locate the author. Author is not clearly qualified in this field. If a web page, the credibility of the source/ host of the page is unknown.	Author's name is missing. If named, author's credentials missing. Publication has an explicit or implicit agenda and/or offers extremist views. If a web page, the source/host is of questionable reputation or may be known for strong biases.
B alance & bias of perspective or presentation	Arguments and evidence are presented objectively. Facts, not opinions, are provided Counterarguments are acknowledged and answered fairly.	Arguments and evidence sometimes include opinion & slight bias. Both facts and opinions are included, but it is easy to tell them apart. Counterarguments are incomplete or inconsistently offered.	Arguments are obviously opinions or are extremely biased. Opinions outnumber and outweigh facts Opposing arguments are countered with name-calling or inappropriate attacks on the person.
C ontent & Conventions	Evidence is sufficient, clear and specific. Evidence is cited or is original research. Evidence is explained or analyzed. Conventions (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar) are always correct	Evidence is offered, but may be general. Evidence is only sometimes cited. Evidence is inconsistently explained or analyzed. Conventions (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar) are almost always correct	Evidence is missing for several points. Evidence is misleading - seems presented for shock value or is purely emotional. Misleading graphs, illustrations, photos, or headlines are offered as evidence. Source of evidence is not presented.
D ate appropriate for the discipline	Source offers the date published (& revision date if electronic.) Information is current according to the standards of the discipline.	Dates are present, but may not represent the date the information was actually produced or written (for example: copyright range of years 2008-2013). Information is marginally within the discipline's standards for currency.	Source offers no date of publication or revision. Information is clearly older than the discipline's standards for currency.