

Credibility in Academic Writing: Evaluating the Credibility of your Sources

reliability/ factors	least reliable	possibly reliable	most reliable
type of source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unfamiliar websites - websites ending in .com, .org, .net - news articles (from unknown newspapers) - social media platforms (Facebook, etc.) - Wikipedia (because everyone can add information and edit entries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - published material in general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - official websites, institutional websites ending in e.g. .gov, .edu, .ac - books, online journals, handbooks - articles from popular newspapers/magazines - high rating of the publishing house - google scholar - books/articles published by a university press
author's background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accused of plagiarism - uncredited author - not from the field or not affiliated with any institution - individuals claiming expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - affiliated with a university - educated on the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - experts in the field (with a title) and affiliated with a university or another institution
date of publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - outdated (depends on the discipline) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recent or within the last 10 years
reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - none - controversial reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paid reviews - good public response - general approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peer-reviewed by reliable sources
sources cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no sources or no bibliography, or no credible sources 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - often cited - high impact factor - citations referencing other well-cited works - credible sources - clear bibliography
objectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one-sided - clearly biased - trying to change/manipulate other's opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sponsored sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - balanced and neutral sources - unbiased sources - clear and informative sources

Terms discussed:

- credibility
- impact factor
- citation databases
- Google Scholars
- Wikipedia