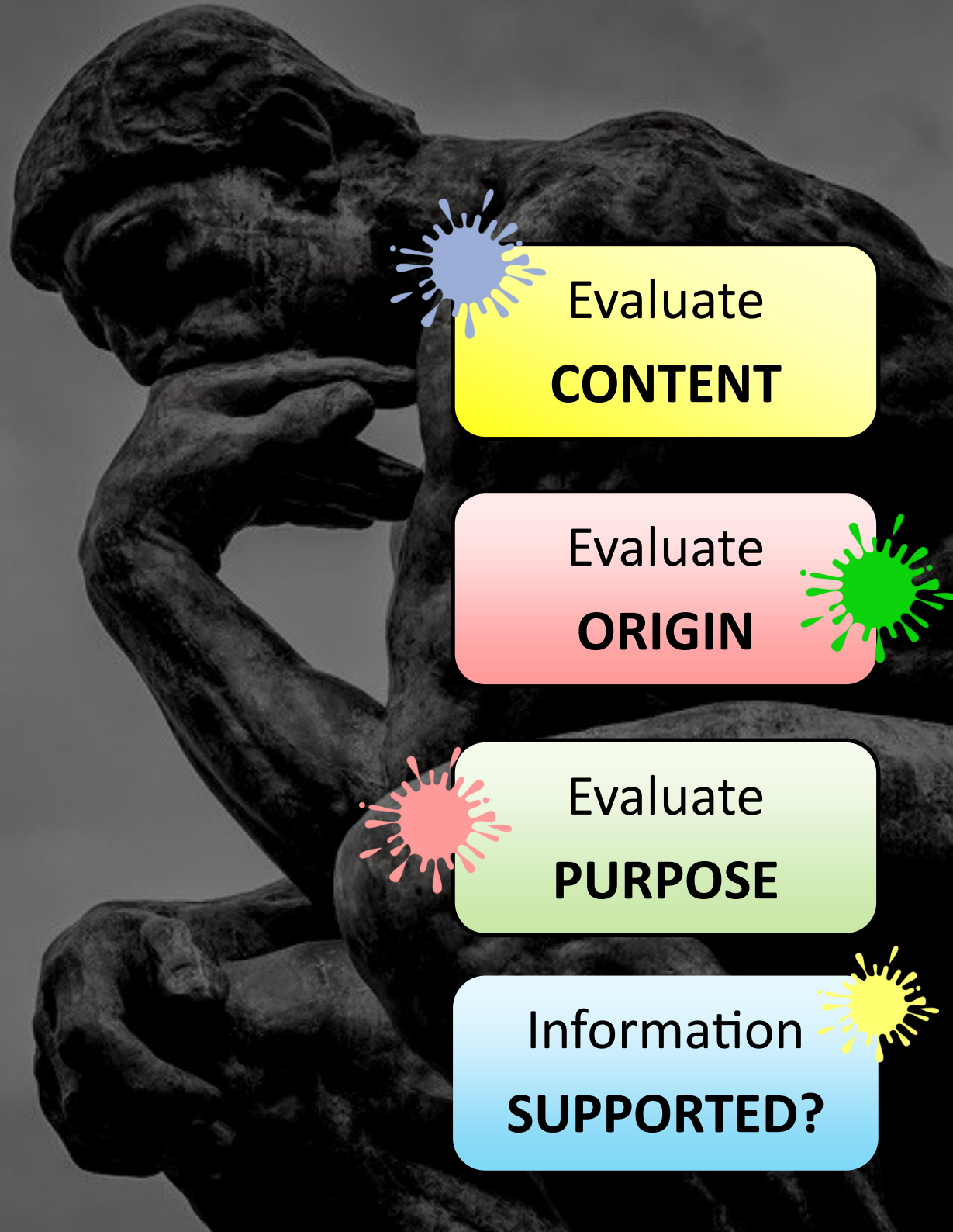
How to Spot Bias Using the COPS Method



Evaluate **CONTENT**

Evaluate **ORIGIN**

Evaluate **PURPOSE**

Information **SUPPORTED?**

Source Evaluation = COPS

C **ONTENT**

Study WHAT the source tells you.
Consider, language used + tone.

O **RIGIN**

Consider WHO created the source.
Also the WHERE + WHEN.

P **URPOSE**

Think about the WHY or motive.
The intended ‘audience’?

S **UPPORTED**

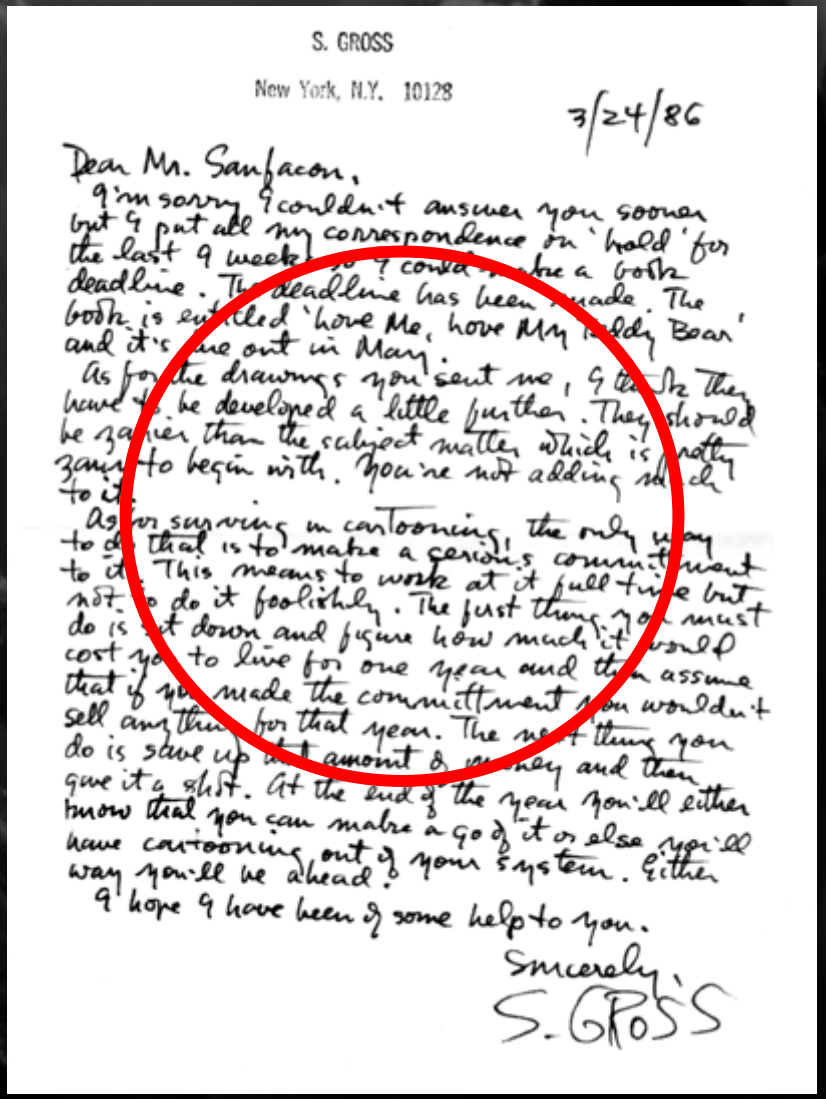
Check if the information
is CORROBORATED by other
sources and /or own knowledge.

Evaluating the **CONTENT** of a source.

The content is what is said (e.g. speech) or written (e.g. diary) - there are indicators that can help us decide if information contains bias .

Bias indicators

- Uses strong language
- Exaggerates
- One sided
- (all positive OR negative)
- Boasts
- Emotional / confused
- Attacks others / blames
- Uses CAPITALS
- Relies on opinions



S. GROSS

New York, N.Y. 10128

3/24/86

Dear Mr. Sanfacon,

I'm sorry I couldn't answer you sooner but I put all my correspondence on 'hold' for the last 4 weeks so I could make a book deadline. The deadline has been made. The book is entitled 'Love Me, Love My Teddy Bear' and it's due out in May.

As for the drawings you sent me, I think they have to be developed a little further. They should be zanier than the subject matter which is zany to begin with. You're not adding much to it.

As for surviving in cartooning, the only way to do that is to make a serious commitment to it. This means to work at it full time but not to do it foolishly. The first thing you must do is sit down and figure how much it would cost you to live for one year and then assume that if you made the commitment you wouldn't sell anything for that year. The next thing you do is save up that amount of money and then give it a shot. At the end of the year you'll either know that you can make a go of it or else you'll have cartooning out of your system. Either way you'll be ahead.

I hope I have been of some help to you.

Sincerely,

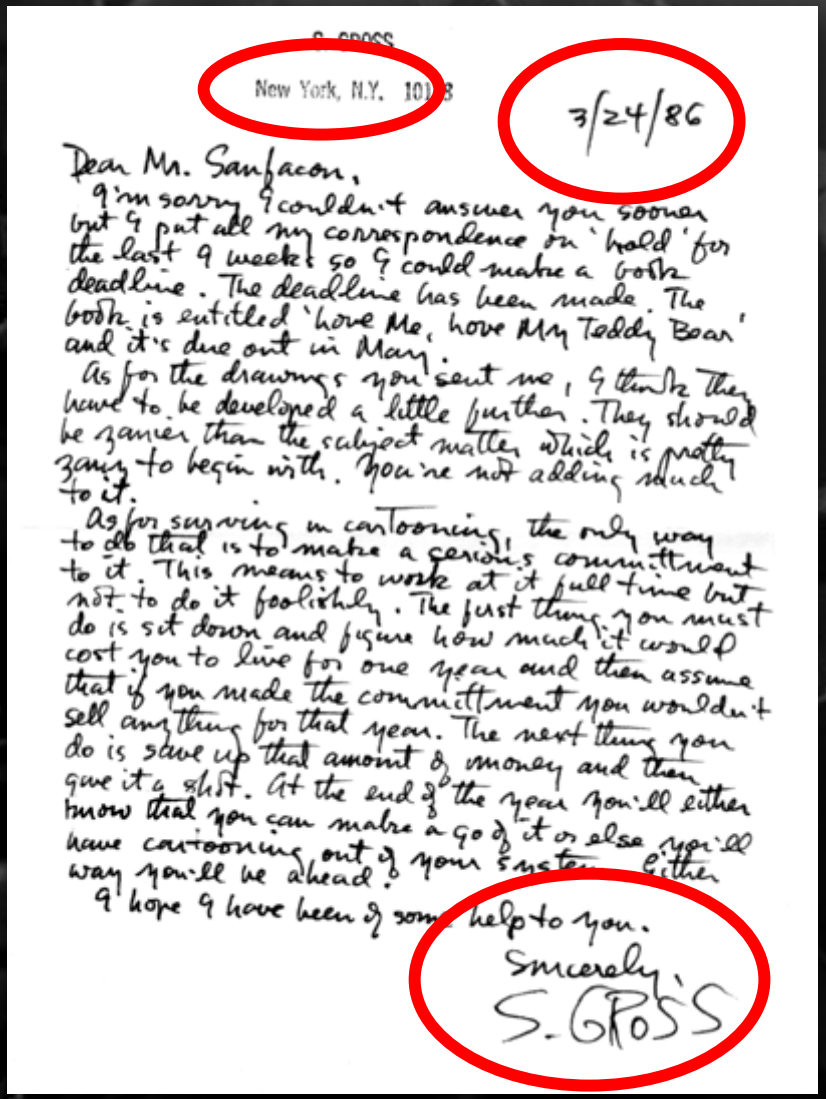
S. GROSS

Reliable indicators

- Uses softer language
- Understates
- Balanced
- (gives positive + negative)
- Modest
- Calm and clear
- Accepts responsibility
- Thoughtfully written
- Uses facts / evidence

Evaluating the **ORIGIN** of a source.

The origins are the who, when and where of a source. Before studying the content, it is good practise to check who said or wrote it. Also consider the date and context.



S. GROSS

New York, N.Y. 10[illegible]3

3/24/86

Dear Mr. Sanfacon,

I'm sorry I couldn't answer you sooner but I put all my correspondence on 'hold' for the last 9 weeks so I could make a book deadline. The deadline has been made. The book is entitled 'Love Me, Love My Teddy Bear' and it's due out in May.

As for the drawings you sent me, I think they have to be developed a little further. They should be zanier than the subject matter which is pretty zany to begin with. You're not adding much to it.

As for surviving in cartooning, the only way to do that is to make a serious committment to it. This means to work at it full time but not to do it foolishly. The first thing you must do is sit down and figure how much it would cost you to live for one year and then assume that if you made the committment you wouldn't sell anything for that year. The next thing you do is save up that amount of money and then give it a shot. At the end of the year you'll either know that you can make a go of it or else you'll have cartooning out of your system either way you'll be ahead.

I hope I have been of some help to you.

Sincerely,

S. GROSS

Consider the 'author' of the source. Do you know anything about this person already? Does he / she have a good reputation OR known for being deceitful and manipulative?

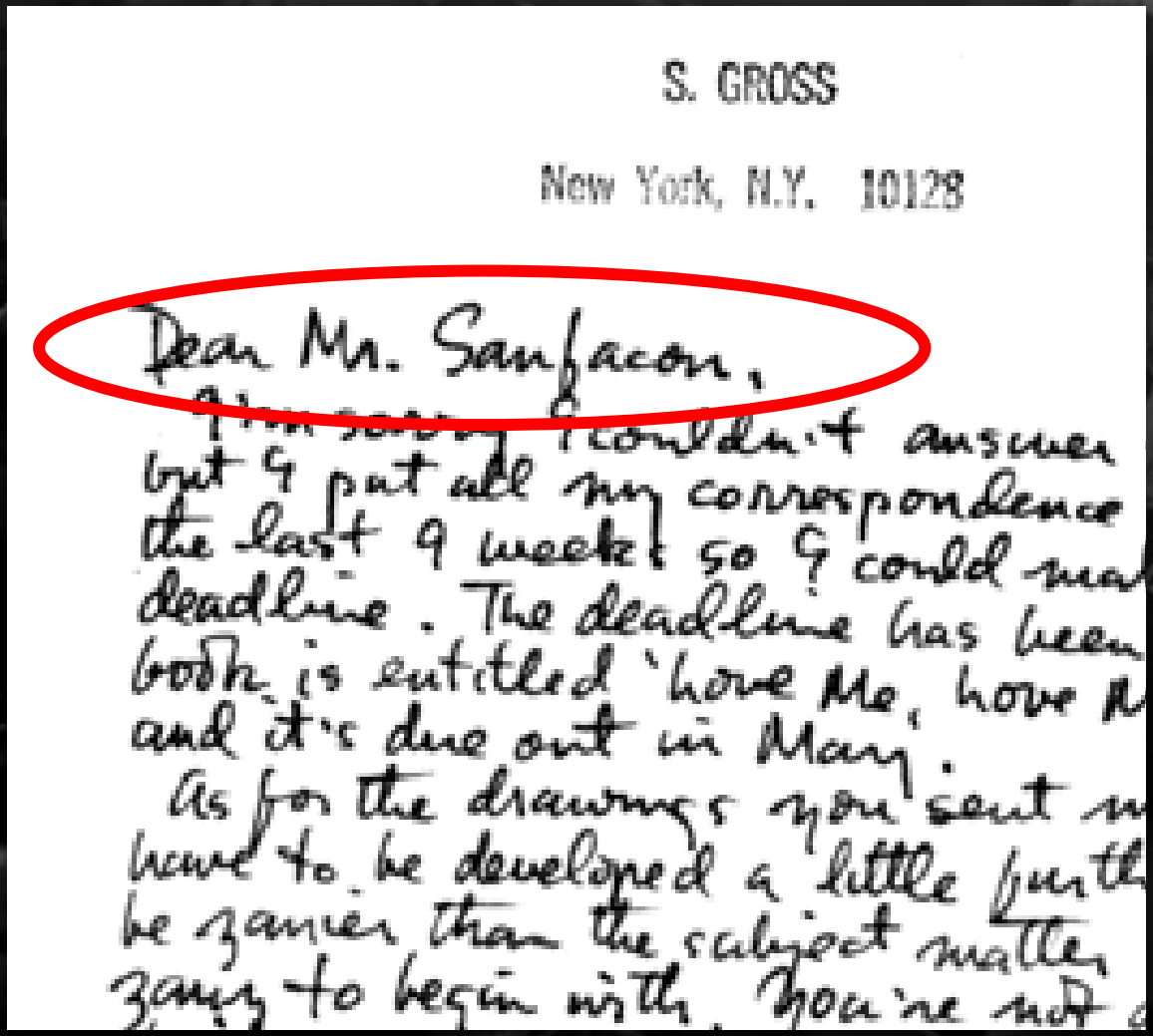
Could the date impact the reliability of the information? To judge this think about the context - do you know anything more about the time it was recorded? Is it a primary or secondary source? (Primary sources are NOT automatically more reliable than secondary sources)

What about the nationality, location gender of the author - could this influence the source reliability?

Is the author in a position to offer special insights?

Evaluating the **PURPOSE** of a source.

The purpose is the reason or motive behind a source of information. Again consider context here but also think about the 'audience'. Who is the source aimed at?



S. GROSS

New York, N.Y. 10128

Dear Mr. Sanfacon,

I'm sorry I couldn't answer but I put all my correspondence the last 9 weeks so I could ma deadline. The deadline has been book is entitled 'hove Me, hove M and it's due out in May.

As for the drawings you sent m have to be developed a little furth be zanier than the subject matter zany to begin with. You're not

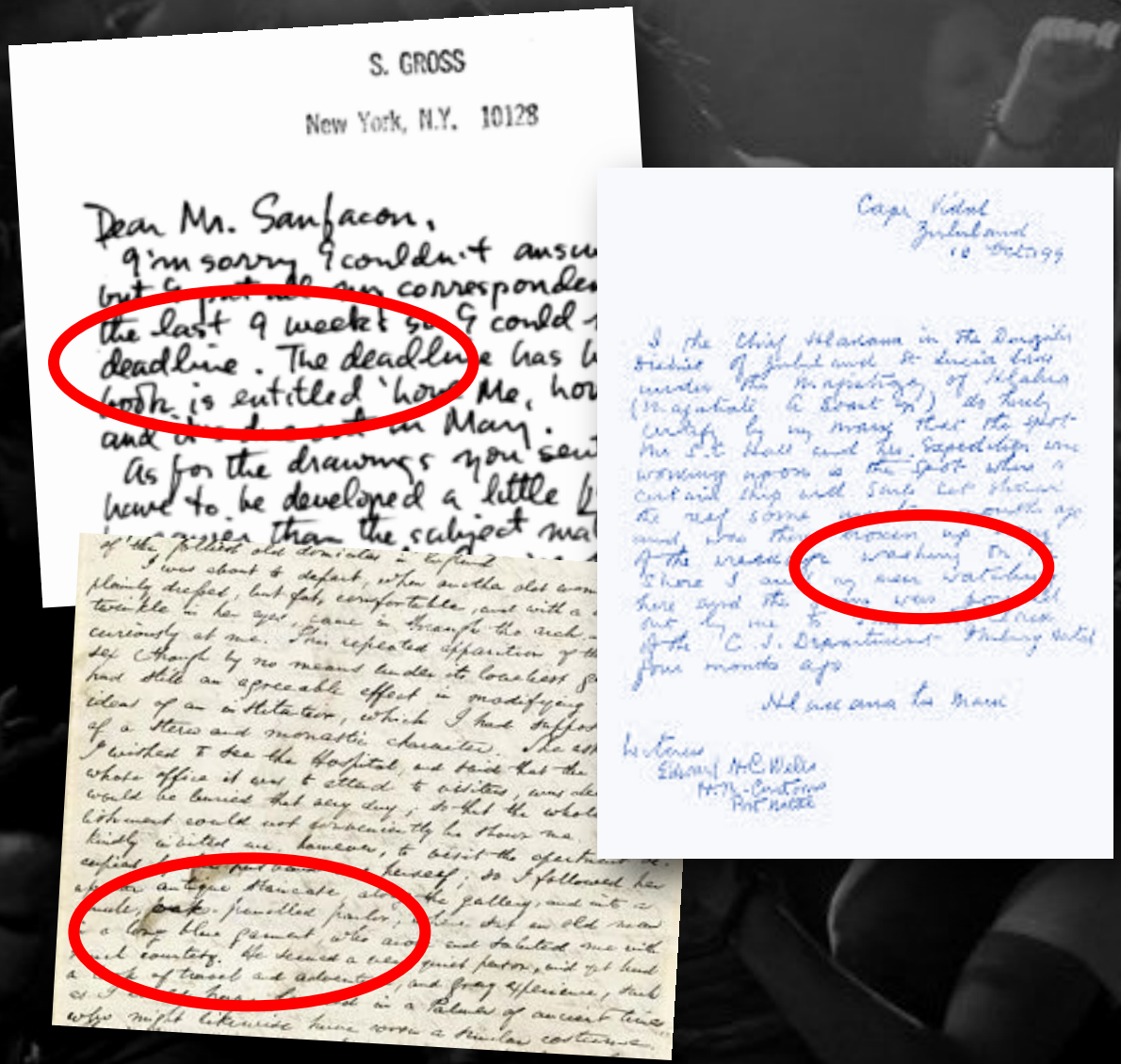
Almost all sources of information are created with some kind of purpose or motive. And many historical sources are examples of propaganda.

Propaganda contains extreme bias and is designed to manipulate the way people think. This is also called brainwashing or indoctrination.

Be on the lookout for sources of propaganda in history classes, exams and real life. Adverts are a commercial propaganda.

Information **SUPPORTED** / corroborated?

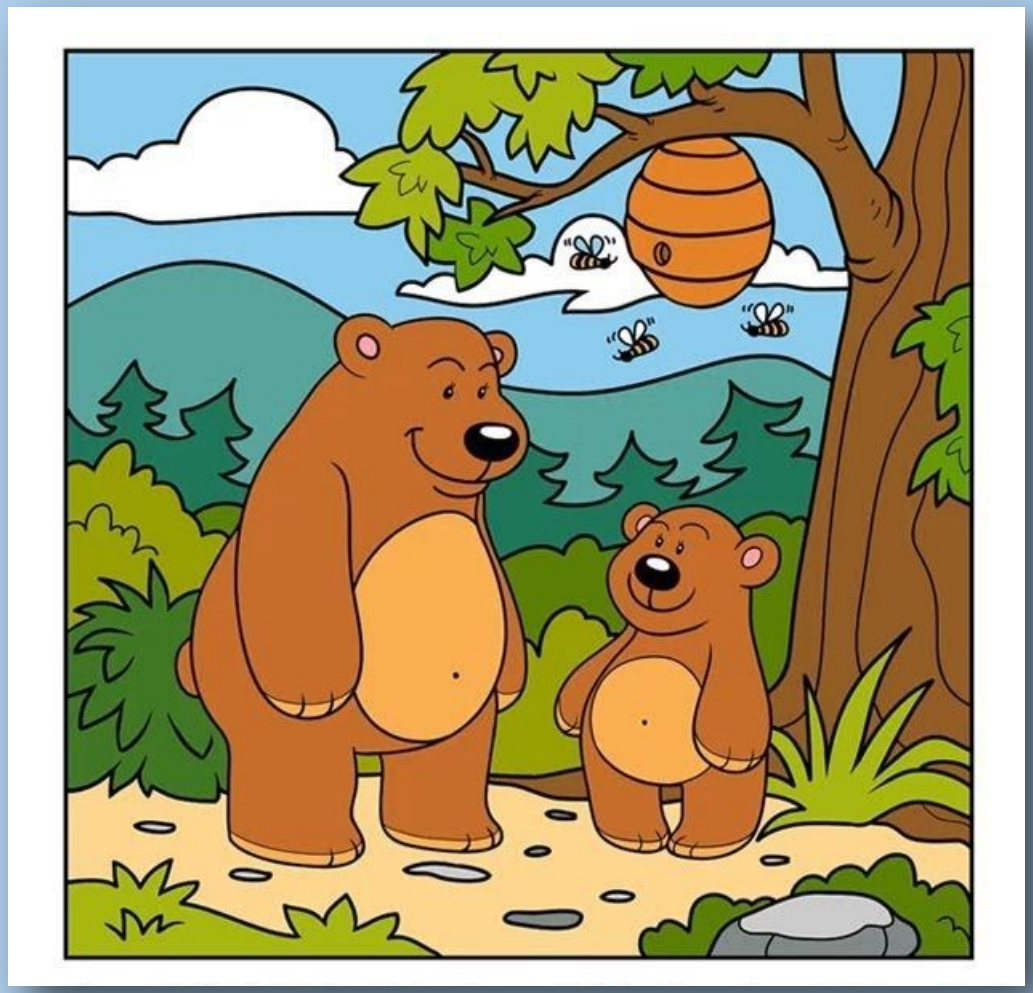
Finally, when checking the reliability of information - it is very helpful to cross reference or triangulate the source. Is the information backed up anywhere else?



Information that is supported or corroborated is more likely to be reliable. Check information against other sources of information.

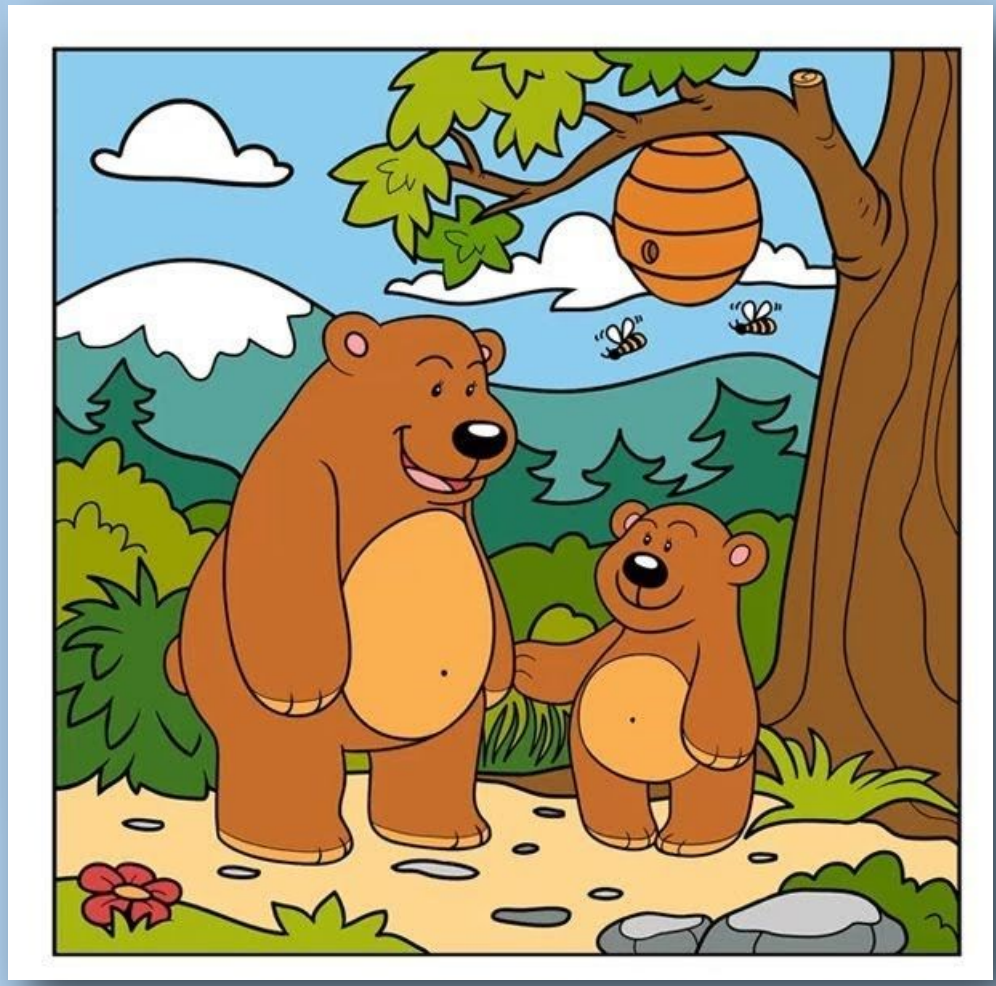
Note - in 'real life' social media algorithms, send back the same types of information we have seen already. This is called an 'echo chamber.' This can create a dangerous information bubble where the same (but wrong) information is given to you. This explains why some people believe in conspiracy theories - e.g. the earth is flat or that Bill Gates has put microchips in vaccines!

SUPPORTED / CORROBORATED?



5 things NOT corroborated?

5 things that ARE corroborated?



THE WORST PERFORMANCE IN HISTORY?

Skill - to evaluate - judge the truth of - source A using the COPS method.

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

"EPIC FAIL: Rihanna gave, without question, the single worst Halftime Show in Super Bowl history - This after insulting far more than half of our Nation, which is already in serious DECLINE, with her foul and insulting language. Also, so much for her 'Stylist!'"

Donald Trump.

Posted on Truth Social - February 12th, 2023, 6:02 PM

B

Another epic halftime performance has come and gone. Rihanna Superbowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles, giving a memorable performance. It was a brilliant combination of hits, surprises and the show included both slower dramatic songs that crescendoed into her up tempo hits.

cbssports.uk

C

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

Content is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?

One sided view OR more balanced?

Boasts OR more modest?

More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?

Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

Origin is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?

A reason not to trust the 'author'?

Is when created (context) important?

Could national / regional bias be a factor?

Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

Purpose is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?

Any reason to be truthful?

Consider intended recipients / audience

Context important ?

Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ?
(Corroborated)

Is ○ isn't ○ corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare *"evidence"* from A + B

_____

_____

Recap the content of source A.

Is it corroborated by source B?

Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability!

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

What Were Conditions Like For Children in Factories?

Skill - to evaluate - judge the truth of - source A using the COPS method.

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

"I have visited many factories, both in Manchester and the surrounding districts, during a period of several months and I never saw a single instance of corporal (physical) punishment inflicted on a child. The children seemed to be always cheerful and alert, taking pleasure in using their muscles. The work of these lively elves seemed to resemble a sport. Conscious of their skill, they were delighted to show it off to any stranger. At the end of the day's work they showed no sign of being exhausted."

An extract from the book titled 'The Philosophy of Manufacturers.' The book was published in 1835 by Andrew Ure. He was a wealthy Scottish businessmen.

B

For hundreds of year's children had worked. But with the increased demand for work during the Victorian era and industrial revolution came more and more demanding roles for children to fulfil. Many were used as cheap labour. Working long hours, children were often treated badly. Children started work as young as four or five years old. A young child could not earn much, but even a few pence would be enough to buy food.

www.tameside.gov.uk

C

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

Content is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

"*Evidence*" from the source?

_____

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?

One sided view OR more balanced?

Boasts OR more modest?

More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?

Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

Origin is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?

A reason not to trust the 'author'?

Is when created (context) important?

Could national / regional bias be a factor?

Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

Purpose is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?

Any reason to be truthful?

Consider intended recipients / audience

Context important ?

Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ?
(Corroborated)

Is ○ isn't ○ corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "*evidence*" from A + B

_____

_____

Recap the content of source A.

Is it corroborated by source B?

Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability!

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

Source Skills - COPS Evaluation Option

Q	How reliable is source A? Use the 'COPS' method to help explain determine this.

Introduction - Overall Source A is … * Very * Somewhat * Not reliable.

The content of the source is …

The origins of the source is (not - somewhat - very) reliable …

The purpose of the source is (not - somewhat - very) reliable …

The source is / is not (corroborated) supported …

Content = *What the source says - Consider - the language used = strong language, one sided, opinions, exaggeration, boasting - OR - uses clear / calm language, modest, more balanced, fact based?*

Origin = Consider who said, wrote the source - where they are from / when it was created? Any national / regional / personal bias? Too 'close' to the situation or too 'far' away from it?

Purpose = Consider the motive behind the source. This often links to the origins and context of the time. Intended audience?

Supported = Is the information corroborated by other sources and or from your own knowledge?

Thought exercise - if grading tis source from 1 - 10 what would you give it now you have used the 'COPS' method? **Not reliable --- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 --- Very Reliable**

+
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
-

Source Skills - Evaluation

Mission - to evaluate (judge) the reliability of source A using **'COPS'.**

Content = what the source says, language, tone.

Origin = the who, when, where behind the source.

Purpose = the reasons, why or motive for the source.

Supported = is the source corroborated or 'backed up'?

C		2	
O		2	
P		2	10
S		2	
J		2	

Content of source A - is what the source says reliable? **C**

Point = the source content may ○ may not ○ be reliable.

Explain = _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Evidence from the source "_____

_____"

Unreliable = strong words - one sided - exaggeration - blames - opinionated - boastful - subjective.

Reliable = softer words - balanced - moderate - clear - respectful - self critical - objective.

Origins of source A - choose one of who, where, when. **O**

Point = the source origins may ○ may not ○ be reliable.

Explain = _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Think - Can we trust this person? Can we trust the time in which it was created? Could where they come from or their beliefs corrupt what is said? Are they likely to have bias? What about the 'audience' - could this help or hurt the reliability of the information?

Purpose of source A - the reason or motive. **P**

Point = the source purpose may ○ may not ○ be reliable.

Explain _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Think - Does this person have a special reason (motive) to lie, be biased OR to be truthful? Could this be propaganda or trying to persuade their audience?

Corroborating source A with B and C **S**

Point = the source is corroborated ○ is not ○ corroborated.

Explain = _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Tip = find a strong example from one of the other sources. Explain why this supports OR challenges something written in source A. Add a short "quote" as evidence if you can.

(Circle overall judgement) **Very Unreliable** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 **Very Reliable** **Judge**

ORIGINS OF FASCISM AND VIOLENCE IN ITALY - 1921

Skill - to evaluate - judge the truth of - source A using the COPS method.

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

C

A

"And, however much violence may be deplored, it is evident that we, in order to make our ideas understood, must beat refractory (stubborn) skulls with resounding blows … we are violent because it is necessary to be so. All those acts of violence which figure in the papers must always have that character of the just retort and legitimate reprisal (retaliation). because we are the first to recognise that it is sad, after having to fight the enemy within ...and for this reason that which we are causing today is a revolution to break up the Bolshevik State, while waiting to settle our account with the Liberal Sate which remains."

Mussolini speech extract to the fascists of Bologna, April 1921.

B

In the Po valley, the town were on the whole the less red than the country, being full of landowners, garrison officers, university students, rentiers, professional men, and trades people. These were the classes from which Fascism draw its recruits and offered the first armed squads.

Comments on the backgrounds of the fascist squadaristri bu Angelo Tasca. He was a member of the Italian Communist Party in the early 1920s.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable? (What the source says)

Content is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?

One sided view OR more balanced?

Boasts OR more modest?

More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?

Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable? (Who , When, Where)

Origin is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?

A reason not to trust the 'author'?

Is when created (context) important?

Could national / regional bias be a factor?

Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable? (Reason for = motive)

Purpose is ○ is not ○ reliable ...

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?

Any reason to be truthful?

Consider intended recipients / audience

Context important ?

Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ? (Corroborated)

Is ○ isn't ○ corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare *"evidence"* from A + B

_____

_____

Recap the content of source A.

Is it corroborated by source B?

Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability!

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 = Very Reliable

WAS ERNST ROHM PLOTTING AGAINST HITLER?

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

Herr Adolf Hitler, the German Chancellor, has saved his country. Swiftly and with exorable severity, he has delivered Germany from men who had become a danger to the unity of the German people and to the order of the state. With lightening rapidity he has caused them to be removed from high office, to be arrested, and put to death. The names of the men who have been shot by his orders are already known. Hitler's love of Germany has triumphed over private friendships and fidelity to comrades who had stood shoulder to shoulder with him in the fight for Germany's future.

A German Newspaper, July 2nd 1934.

B

By June 1934, the regular army hierarchy also saw the SA as a threat to their authority. The SA outnumbered the army by 1934 and Röhm had openly spoken about taking over the regular army by absorbing it into the SA. Such talk alarmed the army's leaders. By the summer of 1934, Hitler had decided that Röhm was a 'threat' and he made a pact with the army. If Röhm and the other SA leaders were removed, the rank and file SA men would come under the control of the army but the army would have to swear an oath of loyalty to Hitler. The army agreed and Röhm's fate was sealed.

www.johndclare.net

C

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?

One sided view OR more balanced?

Boasts OR more modest?

More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?

Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?

A reason not to trust the 'author'?

Is when created (context) important?

Could national / regional bias be a factor?

Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?

Any reason to be truthful?

Consider intended recipients / audience

Context important ?

Possible propaganda?

4. Is source A supported by B + C
(Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B/C

_____

Recap the content of source A.

Is it corroborated by source B?

Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

DONALD J. TRUMP SAVES THE DAY?

2 mins

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

'I always treated the Chinese virus very seriously, and I have done so since the very beginning, including my very early decision to close the "borders" from China - against the wishes of almost all. Many lives were saved. The Fake News narrative (story / description) is disgraceful and false.'

President Donald J. Trump tweet
March 18, 2020.

B

The world has been staggered by the Americas disjointed (chaotic) response to covid-19, resulting in by far the highest case and death count globally. The die was cast by two awful policy decisions taken by the Trump administration.

Essay extract by Drew Altman.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ?
(Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

GERMAN ANGER AT VERSAILLES JUSTIFIED?

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

Germany will lose its most important regions for the production of wheat and potatoes. The Treaty also provides for the loss of almost a third of our production of coal. An enormous part of German industry will be condemned to extinction and we will therefore no longer be able to provide bread and work for millions of people. Nothing will be able to prevent the deaths of millions of people. It is demanded of us that we shall confess ourselves to be the only ones guilty of the war. Such a confession would be a lie. Those who sign the Treaty, will sign the death sentence of millions of German, men, women and children.

Count Brockdorff - Rantzau's reply to the terms of the Peace Treaty. May 1919.
He was the German Foreign Minister.

B

''But I hear that this treaty is very hard on Germany. When a country has committed a criminal act, the punishment is hard, but the punishment is not unjust. The nation permitted itself to commit a criminal act against mankind, and it is to undergo the punishment, not more than it can ensure but up to the point where it can pay. It must pay for the wrong it had one.''

President Woodrow Wilson, USA - September 1919.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ?
(Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

WHAT DID WILSON WANT AT VERSAILLES?

2 mins

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

''The Treaty of Versailles seeks to punish one of the greatest wrongs ever done in history, the wrong which Germany sought to do to the world and to civilisation , and there ought to be no weak purpose with regard to (Germany's) punishment. She attempted an intolerable thing, and she must be made to pay for the attempt.''

President Wilson speaking in September 1919 - during his speaking tour around the USA.

B

During the peace talks at Versailles, Woodrow Wilson presented a moderate voice. He had no doubts that Germany should be punished, but he wanted those in power punished – not the people.

Historylearningsiteco.uk

1. Is the CONTENT reliable? (What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?

One sided view OR more balanced?

Boasts OR more modest?

More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?

Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable? (Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?

A reason not to trust the 'author'?

Is when created (context) important?

Could national / regional bias be a factor?

Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable? (Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?

Any reason to be truthful?

Consider intended recipients / audience

Context important ?

Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ? (Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.

Is it corroborated by source B?

Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 = Very Reliable

WAS SEGREGATION OF TRANSPORT LEGAL?

2 mins

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

"We consider the underlying fallacy (failure) of Plessy's argument, that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority. If this be so, it is not by reason of anything found (wrong) with the Separate Car Law, but only because the colored race chooses to put that construction (opinion / perspective) upon it."

Justice Henry Brown's ruling against Homer Plessy - May 1896.
Henry Brown was a white judge from the Southern State of Louisiana.

B

"The separation of citizens on the basis of race while they are on a public highway is a badge of servitude wholly against civil freedom and the equality before the law established by the Constitution. It cannot be justified upon any legal grounds."

Justice John Halren - dissenting argument, 1896.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ?
(Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

WHY DID GERMANY LOSE WW1?

8 mins

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

" It was the weak and cowardly politicians who were to blame for our defeat in the war. No doubt manipulated by the communists and Jews who stabbed our brave soldiers in the back when we were on the verge of victory. Let us not forget these November Criminals who conspired with our enemies against us. When they agreed to the surrender they signed away not only our path to victory but also our national honour and rightful place as the dominant power in Europe. Let us not forget ... we shall not forget and we will destroy this humiliation they call The Treaty of Versailles."

An adapted speech by 'Hitler'.
The speech was made by the actor playing Hitler in the movie - The Rise of Evil.
Released 2005.

B

'At the start of 1918 Germany was in a strong position. Russia had already left the fighting a year before. A few events changed things around. Britain and France launched a strong counter attack after Germany's 'Michael Offensive' in March 1918. The German navy went on strike. In 1917 the USA had joined the war bringing much needed soldiers, weapons and new fighting spirit against the exhausted Germans. By November 1918 Germany and her allies realised it was not possible to win. The leaders of the German army ordered the surrender. The leaders of USA, Britain + France made the Germans sign the Treaty of Versailles.

BBC History (adapted)

1. Is the content reliable? (What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source origin reliable? (Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source purpose reliable? (Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A supported by B ? (Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ..

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Score Overall Source Reliability: 1 = Very Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 = Very Reliable

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE Somme?

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

"It seemed to me that everyone around me had been killed or wounded for I was the only one of my regiment I could see. This was the first time I had killed anybody, as far as I know, and when things quieted I went and looked at a German I knew I had shot, and I remember thinking that he looked old enough to have a family and I felt very sorry. We were just meant to be sacrificed, as we ran into a wall of steel …. a chap (man) who had the bottom of his jaw blown off and still kept going forward till he dropped".

British soldier George Rudge gives recalls what he experienced at the Somme.
He was 17 at the time and had lied about his age when he signed up for the war.

B

" I felt bewilderment and woolly headed as I went over the top and charged across no man's land. When I stormed into the enemy trench I saw a dying German soldier - he was calling for his mother and for water. I am pleased to say that I gave him a drink from my precious water (canteen / bottle).

An edited account from George Mayne - British Royal Fusiliers.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable? (What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable? (Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable? (Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ? (Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 10 = Very Reliable

CAUSES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

6 mins

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

" In the year 1765, that portion of the British Empire embracing Great Britain, undertook to make laws for the government of that portion composed of the thirteen American Colonies. A struggle for the right of self-government ensued, which resulted, on the 4th of July, 1776, in a Declaration, by the Colonies, "that they are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; and that, as free and independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent States may of right do."

Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of South Carolina from the Federal Union - 1861.

B

Before the civil war began Mississippians had complained to the Federal Government that planners working in the North had not been allowed to bring their slaves to Manhattan. They argued that New York was taking the concept of states' rights too far. The South was pre-occupied with states rights' because it was preoccupied foremost with maintaining slavery.

Col TY. Seidule.
Head of History—West Point Military Academy.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable?
(What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable?
(Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable?
(Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ?
(Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

DID THE US ECONOMY REALLY BOOM?

Mission - to evaluate of source A using the COPS method .

- **Content** *What the source says*
- **Origin** *Who, when, where*
- **Purpose** *Why, motive, reason*
- **Supported** *Corroborated?*

A

" I think our people have long realized the advantages of large business operations in improving and cheapening the cost of manufacture and distribution. The more goods produced, the more share there is to distribute. We in America are nearer to the financial triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of our land. The poor house is vanishing from among us. Under these impulses, and the Republican protective system our industrial output has increased as never before and our wages have grown steadily in buying power. Our workers, with average weekly wages, can today buy two and even three times more bread and butter than any other earner in Europe."

American President - Herbert Hoover.
Speech 1928 (an election year)

B

'The average industrial wage rose from 1919's $1,158 to $1,304 in 1927, a solid if unspectacular gain, during a period of mainly stable prices... The twenties brought an average increase in income of about 35%. But the biggest gain went to the people earning more than $3,000 a year. The number of millionaires had risen from 7,000 in 1914 to about 35,000 in 1928.

Geoffrey Perrett - America in the 1920s.

1. Is the CONTENT reliable? (What the source says)

The content is / not reliable ...

_____

_____

"Evidence" from the source?

_____

Strong / exaggerated OR Soft language?
One sided view OR more balanced?
Boasts OR more modest?
More emotional, opinion OR calm, facts?
Attacks, blames OR takes responsibility?

2. Source ORIGIN reliable? (Who , When, Where)

The origin is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

A good reason to trust the 'author' ?
A reason not to trust the 'author'?
Is when created (context) important?
Could national / regional bias be a factor?
Gender, race, political belief be a factor?

3. Source PURPOSE reliable? (Reason for = motive)

The purpose is / not reliable..

_____

_____

_____

_____

Any special reason to lie?
Any reason to be truthful?
Consider intended recipients / audience
Context important ?
Possible propaganda?

4. Source A SUPPORTED by B ? (Corroborated)

Content is / isn't corroborated ...

_____

_____

Compare "evidence" from A + B

_____

Recap the content of source A.
Is it corroborated by source B?
Does your knowledge corroborate A?

Corroboration is a sign of reliability.

Source A Reliability 1 = Very Unreliable **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10** 10 = Very Reliable

FREE SAMPLE RESOURCE

Access the entire SOURCES ➕ SOURCE SKILLS unit

PLUS **THOUSANDS** more

history teaching resources using the ...

icHistory Full Site Pass Discount.

www.icHistory.com

i C H