



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

## Evaluating the Credibility of Sources Information Sheet

(1 OF 1)

The following two review templates provide students with a set of questions and prompts that they use to analyze a source document. These templates can help students who are new to the process of reviewing sources, as they require students to write down information about the source's credibility and the author's perspective. Two different templates have been provided. One is for reviewing print sources and the other is for online sources. RAVEN is a mnemonic that you can use to determine the credibility of a source.

### Print Source Analysis Template

Article Title:

Source of the Article:

#### R — Reputation

What is the reputation of the author, the sources, and the publication? Do past actions or lies indicate that the author, sources, or publication may not be reliable? Is the author, source, or publication in a position of authority?

#### A — Ability to Observe

Is the author in a position that allows access to reliable evidence? If the article is about an event, did the author actually observe the event?

#### V — Vested Interest

Does the author have a personal stake in the topic or event? Would the author gain anything by lying? Would the author gain anything by telling the truth?

#### E — Expertise

Does the author have specialized knowledge on the topic or event? Does the evidence come from a source that has expertise on the topic or event?

#### N — Neutrality

Is the author neutral about the issue or is bias evident? Is the source of the evidence neutral or biased?

### Online Source Analysis Template

Title of the Website:

Address of the Website:

#### Authority and Accuracy

- ▶ Who is the author of the website?
- ▶ What authorship clues does the url provide (e.g., .com, .edu, .gov)?
- ▶ What are the qualifications of the author or group that created the site?

#### Purpose and Content

- ▶ What is the purpose of the webpage or site?
- ▶ In your own words, briefly describe the purpose of the website.
- ▶ Is the website balanced and objective, or biased and opinionated? How do you know?
- ▶ Does the website have any means of contacting the author or webmaster?

#### Currency

- ▶ When was the website last revised, modified, or updated?
- ▶ Is currency important to the type of information available on the website? Explain.
- ▶ Is the site well maintained?
- ▶ Are links broken?

#### Design, Organization, and Ease of Use

- ▶ In your opinion, how does the website appear overall?
- ▶ Is it well designed and organized?
- ▶ Is it easy to read?
- ▶ Are help screens available?
- ▶ Is there a search feature or site map available?