



Well done!

This Test Key: ABCDEF

Your Student Key: 123456

October 16, 2016

Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy

Your Results

Today you completed the Evaluating Process & Authority test. Your results indicate that during your research you probably find yourself asking questions about the sources you find, such as: What makes these authors experts on this topic? How did these authors get their information? How well was this information checked before it was published? You recognize that judging information accurately requires attention to detail.

Personal recommendations for strengthening your ability to evaluate information:

Remember that choosing high-quality sources is not only about satisfying your assignment requirements. Using authoritative sources also gives you insight into how experts study your topic and using these sources gives your own work more authority within the academic community. When you want to be seen as an expert, cite the work of experts.

When responding to questions about how responsible you feel to the academic community, students at your level display an appreciation for how the academic community values, creates, and uses sources. When dealing with the ambiguity that is part of deciding which sources to use, you show strong flexibility because you are comfortable accepting that sources with equal authority can often disagree and what is considered authoritative varies by the particular research situation. With regard to how reflective you are about selecting sources, you also have an inclination to be convinced by the sources that your professor or librarian tells you have authority.

Personal recommendations for strengthening your dispositions:

- Consider yourself a future academic researcher in your chosen field and imagine what it would take to be seen as an authority. Picture the types of evidence that you would gather and analyze. Begin using these types of evidence in your college papers.
- Remember that all judgments we make about authoritative sources need to be backed up with good reasons. Whether you are using sources by well-known scholars or sources by unrecognized outsiders, make sure to identify the reasons why you trust them and help your reader understand how they can see them as authoritative, too. No authority is absolute.
- Practice recognizing when you are using your professor's or librarian's guidance instead of making your own informed judgments. If you find yourself only considering sources that have traditional academic authority, challenge yourself to find additional sources that are by or about people with different types of expertise that comes from experiences outside of academic research.