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| **Definitions** | * Anecdotal Evidence: where only one or a few anecdotes, or stories, are presented, there is a larger chance that they may be unreliable due to not having a large enough sample size. * Research Based Evidence: Evidence that backed up by scholarly research studies. * Bias: Prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. Everyone has a bias. |
| **Determining credibility of a source** | **WHERE WAS THE SOURCE PUBLISHED?**   * **Is it in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal?**    + These texts will have scholarly credibility. * **Was the source published on-line?**    + This is not necessarily bad, but it will depend on who published it, why it was published, and how you intend to use the material. There are on-line journals that utilize peer-review thus providing greater credibility to the publication. Check teacher * **Is the source from a “Popular Source” vs. a “Scholarly Source?”**   + Popular: Can have credibility, but have to look at other signifiers.     - Sources designed to educate or entertain like Newspapers, magazines, textbooks.   + Scholarly: Almost always credible.     - Primary- Reports from an original study     - Secondary: Review of research, not an original study   + Both sources may have bias.   **WHO WROTE IT?**   * You can undertake brief on-line research into the author. Is the author affiliated with a university or another institution? What else has the author written?   **IS THE PIECE TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE FOR ITS FIELD?**   * In some disciplines, material can become outdated very swiftly. In others, texts can continue to be considered valuable for longer. |
|  | **FOR WHOM IS THE SOURCE WRITTEN? DOES IT HAVE SOURCES?**   * Is the intended audience a scholarly one? If so, it should have a clear bibliography that you will also be able to consult for further sources.   "Columbia College." *Evaluating the Credibility of Your Sources*. Web. 02 Feb. 2016. |