

# How to validate a source 101

There are two basic things needed to understand how to validate a source, you need a positive reason, and a negative reason

## BASICS

- What college did they go to?
  - Showing their educational background authenticates their ability to speak on the subject
  - Use the University as an adjective, to describe the person you are validating
  - “*Eugene Provenzo was a Washington University scholar*”
  
- Do they have a vested interest?
  - Vested interest is a personal stake or involvement in a state of affairs, especially one with an expectation of financial gain.
  - By assessing if they have a vested interest, this can be used as a negative reason of using them as a source because it increases their bias
  - *Looking to Peter Manseau, Georgetown University scholar in religion, and the Lilly Endowment Curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum, he discusses in his book " One Nation, Under Gods" the story of an anonymous writer of the New England Courant in the year 1722. Although Peter does have a degree in religion, his personal religious affiliation is unknown which could lead to a vested interest against specific religions.*
  
- What is the aim of the source?
  - Discussing the aim of a source, or what the source is can verify credibility
  - If doing an organization or article, this is often an easy way to validate them positively
  - *The Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan think tank that aims to provide the public with information surrounding issues, and trends that are shaping the current world.*
  
- What is their usual work?
  - Discussing what they normally report or write about can serve as a positive or negative reason to use the source
  - This can be done in terms of expertise

- *Michael Lipka is Boston University scholar and Senior Editor for the Pew Research Center, but his overwhelming amounts of work in the fields of secularity may limit his perspective to report objectively*
- Fallacies?
  - This is a concept that can also be used in writing in paper 1
  - Looking for fallacies in their work can serve as a negative reason
  - *John Smith although having expertise in his field, often writes with the fallacy of circular flow*

## PRIME Examples of a well evaluated source

### Example for an organization



## GOOD WORDS TO USE

- Bias
  - Jaundiced
  - Predisposed
  - Bigoted
  - Skewed
  - Slanted
  - Partial
- Reliable
  - Dependable
  - Authentic
  - Genuine
  - Accuracy
- Valid
  - Logical
  - Justifiable
  - Conclusive
  - Legitimate

- True
- However
  - Yet
  - But
  - Nonetheless
  - Despite
  - On the contrary
  - On the other hand
- Global
  - World-wide
  - Universal
  - International