

FILL IN VALIDATIONS:

For an organization:

- The [name of organization] is [explain purpose], and while they [list good points] they are financially tied to [describe funding].
 - Ex. “Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Initiative is a project that was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and while they conduct research to provide evidence-based livestock sector and related policies that reduce poverty while managing environmental and public health risks, they are financially tied to the government of the United Kingdom.”

For a non-profit:

- The [name of non-profit] is [list good points], nevertheless, is [list bad points].
 - Ex. “The Humane Society International is a world renowned, charitable organization that serves a critical and expanding role in global efforts to reduce animal suffering and seeks out innovative and scientifically sound approaches to animal welfare, nevertheless, is an activist organization and has emotional ties to animals.”

For a journalist/non reputable author:

- [author name] is [list good points], although he/she is a freelance writer not writing in their area of expertise.
 - Ex. “Monica Eng is presently an editor and reporter for the Chicago Tribune and has been for more than 15 years, she has reported in Central America, Central Asia and Europe covering the arts, leisure, ethnic culture and particularly food for various publications, although she is a freelance writer with no research experience.”

For United Nations/affiliated groups:

- The [United Nations/affiliated group] is [explain purpose and good points]. Nonetheless, as a nongovernmental organization, they do not have access to the same data as a governmental organization.
 - Ex. “The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, or United Nations Women, is an entity of the United nations working for elimination of discrimination against women and girls, empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men. Nonetheless, as a nongovernmental organization, they do not have access to the same data as a governmental organization.”
- The [United Nations/affiliated group] is a global collective organization who has [list good points] yet, they are based on western democratic ideals.

- Ex. “The World Health Organization is a global collective organization who has been producing articles and coordinating international health within the United Nations’ system since 1948, yet, they are based on western democratic ideals.”

For a study:

- [list contributors] did the study/project [title of study/project] for [reason of project and any good points]. While [list praises] the specific credentials of the contributors were undocumented.
 - Ex. “Kai Ling Toh, Pei Lin Grace Chia, Clint Kim Fat, Karen Chua Chiacco, & Serena Teo did the project of Water Privatization in Manila, Philippines: Should Water be Privatized? for their Master of Business Administration program at Insead. While this project received considerable praise from the institution, the specific credentials of the contributors were undocumented.”
- The leader of this study is [name of leader], he/she is [list good points] and while he/she [list best point], his/her writings may be influenced by [name of source of influence].
 - Ex. The leader of this study is Wondimu Shanko Yirga, he is a public health specialist and academician who conducts international medical research and lectures in Ethiopia, and while he is a member of the international health economics association, his writings may be influenced by his employer’s interests.

NEGATIVES FOR VALIDATION STATEMENTS:

Global Perspectives

- As an American, she has a limited ability to write on Korean culture.
- The organization does not have access to the same governmental resources and must obtain information on their own."
- They have a strong personal religious stance on abortion
- As a man, he has a limited ability to see a women’s perspective on the impact of abortion.
- She has an emotional tie to the rights of women.
- He has a financial investment and his reputation riding upon his writing.
- She is presenting in Finland to their ministry of Social Affairs and Health so therefore may adopt a less accusatory approach to her argument when addressing governmental participation in world health.
- He has a limited ability to see torture through the perspective of other people around the world who live in different cultures than him.
- He has no institutional education in the field of torture.
- His experience with ethics may prevent him from writing about torture without a slanted view.
- They rely on donations to thrive and therefore will be more attentive to their reputation.
- Many of the articles are not labeled with authors and it is unknown if the person who wrote them has the ability to speak accurately on the topic.

- As a British citizen his writing may be slanted on the topic of British history.
- She relies on her studies to be successful in her profession which may affect the results.
- He has a love for nature, and this might prevent his work from being solely objective.
- They are an activist organization and have an emotional tie to the environment.
- They act in the interest of the chicken industry.

History

- It is expected that the strong Southern pride may cloud an objective look at the compromise between the North and the South.
- It tends to have a heavily ironic tone and includes several exaggerated statements for effect.
- It is taken from a first-hand account from a man who was recalling what he had experienced nearly 60 years before and his memory may have been shifted by the glorification of Lincoln as years go on.
- It is filled with a hostile tone that makes it feel less factual and more emotionally biased.
- At the time that he gave his speech, the Dred Scott decision was only decided months earlier and his speech is likely still affected by it.
- Both of these speeches may also be impacted by the fact that James Buchanan has just been elected and the speakers were well-known political men.
- The source was written some 30 years before the civil war and might not truly show the causes of it.
- They might still be feeling the effects of the violence which occurred in their fellow western state, Kansas, which can largely be attributed to John Brown, the man who would later go on to Harper's Ferry.
- It is unknown where this cartoon came from, whether it be from the south, who was largely against Lincoln at this time, because it is the year of his election, or the north, who supported Lincoln overall.
- He writes in the New York Tribune as the editor and might be more careful as to what he writes because the reputation of his paper rides upon his words
- Although the historian's modern age could be seen as an advantage, this factor may have prevented them from truly seeing opinions and national feelings at the time.

KEYWORDS AND PHRASES TO SHORTEN VALIDATIONS:

Positive Words

Negative Words

- John smith, a **freelance writer** for **[Insert esteemed magazine, website, organization]**
- John smith, while showing a **vested interest**, is a **scholar** in [Insert the field of study]
- **World renowned ad hoc** speech writer John Smith
- John Smith, a **revered [insert job title]** with a **[insert a specific view]**

Ex: Mason Gaffney- a **profound economist** with a **Georgian point of view**- presented a cure, which is to implement Georgist policy to failing cities.

Ex. Dr. Robert Carter is an esteemed scientist focused on debunking Climate Change.

** What is negative is that they solely focus all their time to look at one side or solution to the problem

QUESTIONS THAT DETERMINE VALIDITY OF A SOURCE:

- Does the article come from a reliable website?
 - Blog vs well-known and cited website
 - What is the reputation of the website?
- Does the article have an author?
 - It can still be valid if it doesn't if the website is well-known and respected, but this would be a negative aspect of the source
- What is the authors education background/what is their expertise?
 - Are they an infield scholar?
- What is the authors current occupation?
 - Freelance writer vs and infield professor
- If they are a well-published author, what were the other topics discussed?
- Look at the content as well
 - Is it fact or judgement?
 - Both are okay to use as long as they are credible (which related back to the author)
- If you are using a source that deals with an interview, does the interviewee have expertise on the subject?
- Is the source global? (especially useful question for AS students)

EXAMPLES OF VALIDITY STATEMENTS:

- While the majority of this piece is the result of judgement, Dr. Anthony Tommasini, being the chief music critic for *The New York Times*, a published author, as well as holding an in-field doctorate offers a developed and credible opinion on the subject.
- While this example comes from a blog section of a well-known American Newspaper, Juval Aviv, who began his career as the office in the Israel Defense Force and is currently a special consultant to the US Congress on issues of terrorism and security, offers a dependable worldwide viewpoint on the issue of artificial intelligence in relation to terrorism.
- Although Dr. Mahesh Saptharishi has extensive knowledge on the subject of developing intelligent video analytics technology, he is the CEO of a company which main focus is on video cameras dealing with security surveillance giving him a vested interest in the subject making him not the most impartial source but information and ideas given do in fact confirm the idea that AI increases security.

- Although the article was written for an American based newspaper, the author has a high vested interest in the well-being of Latin America, as his job is closely related to the Argentine Ministry of Education, giving him an educated, international viewpoint.
- Although no substantial information can be found on her, Jane Wakefield is a prolific author, haven written over 200 articles for BBC, giving her dependability as a continuous author of a well-known and respected publication.

ADDITIONAL HELP:

When using a source without an author

- Look at the site the source comes from
- Research the source, noticing the credentials of the source

When using an author on a subject out of their expertise

- Research the author and see if they've done anything in the field to give them reputability
- Example: an author/scholar out of field

When using a source with a vested interest

- Research the reason behind the vested interest
 - If the reason is money – don't use the source!!!!
 - If the reason is passion – the source is okay to use, but don't use it as a main source. Use it as a secondary source to back up a main idea
- Example: a predisposed/partial/skewed/prejudice source

When using an author without a steady career

- Research their credentials
- Example: a prolific, freelance writer