

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

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