

DETECTING BIAS IN SOURCES

“If your mother says she loves you, check it out.”

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Identify your own bias:

What do you know about the subject you are researching? How do you know this?

What is your opinion on the subject you are researching? Why is this your opinion?

What are the gaps in your knowledge of this subject?

What kind of experts or sources should you seek to help you fill these gaps?

AS YOU RESEARCH

Identify the type of source:

- Primary source
- Secondary source
- Online source

Who created this source? What is their background?

How did the creator of this source get the information that is presented?

How do you know? Does the author name the source of their information?

Consider the background and objectives of that source.

What are they saying? Would it benefit them to leave anything out? If so, where should you look to find that information?

Is the information presented fact or opinion? How do you know?

What kind of language does the source use? How does it make you feel?

Does your source include at least three perspectives? Do they sound similar or different?

What are the gaps in the creator’s knowledge of the subject? How do you know this?

What viewpoints have you not considered?

Would these perspectives confirm or contradict your thesis?

Would you be a credible source if you included them? Why or why not?