YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWER AT THE LIBRARY

WHAT SOURCES DO YOU NEED?

Deciding what type of sources will work best for your project can be daunting. Sometimes, this is decided by your professor. Other times, it’s wide open and you have to provide a variety of sources all relevant to your topic. Understanding the basic **Information Cycle** can help you determine what information is available on your topic and what type of source is best to use.

- **Minutes**
  - Social Media
  - Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat

- **Days**
  - News Sites, TV, Radio, & Newspapers
  - CNN.com, Fox News, BBC Radio, New York Times

- **Weeks**
  - Weekly Magazines
  - Time, Newsweek, People, The New Yorker

- **1 Month**
  - Monthly Magazines
  - Wired, National Geographic, Scientist

- **6+ Months**
  - Scholarly Journals
  - Journal of American History, JAMA

- **12+ Months**
  - Books
  - Nonfiction titles, biographies, textbooks

HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you are on campus, stop by and let us help! In-person assistance is available at the second-floor research desk...

- **Mon-Wed** 9AM - Midnight
- **Thurs** 9AM - 8PM
- **Fri** 8AM - 6PM
- **Sat** 1PM - 6PM
- **Sun** 1PM - 10PM

Help is also available by phone (912-478-1315), text (478-412-4297), and chat via the library homepage. Private research consultations are also available by appointment with any librarian.

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The course LibGuide contains library info as well as shortcuts to important research tools you will need for your assignment.

Be sure to explore the **Find Resources** tab to locate the best tools for finding books, articles, films, and web sources. The **Cite Resources** tab will help you use them in your final video project.
IS YOUR INFORMATION APPROPRIATE? TEST IT!


**CURRENCY**
*the timeliness of the information*
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?
- Are the links functional?

**RELEVANCE**
*the importance of the information for your needs*
- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Who is the intended audience? Is the information at an appropriate level?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?
- Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research paper?

**AUTHORITY**
*the source of the information*
- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? (.com .edu .org .gov)

**ACCURACY**
*the truthfulness and correctness of the content*
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?

**PURPOSE**
*the reason the information exists*
- What is the purpose of the information?
- Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional or personal biases?