



Frame(s): Authority is constructed and contextual	Level: 200	Learning Objective: Differentiate between different types of resources by recognizing the differences in their scope, audience, and intent.
Duration: 30-50 minutes	Discipline: Biology (adaptable)	

LESSON PLAN:**Introduce assignment and workplan (5 minutes)**

- Students are divided into small groups and provided with a physical object to identify and a card detailing the type of source they must use.
 - ⇒ Example from a biology course: students are given plastic insects or photographs of organisms or cells.
 - ⇒ Each small group needs to look at a different source type: Wikipedia, website, newspaper, magazine, and journal.
 - ⇒ Students have a LibGuide that can assist them in finding their source type.

Group searching (15 minutes)

- Students locate their source and use it to find information about their object.
 - ⇒ Students complete a worksheet that includes questions about their source and the information it provides on their object.
 - ⇒ Students must determine whether there are gaps between the information their source provides and what they need to know about their object.

Group report (10 minutes)

- Each group reports back to the class about the benefits and disadvantages of their source type.

The short version of this session ends with a discussion of the role of each source type for conducting research. A longer session can include:

Filling the gaps (15 minutes)

- Now that students are aware of the features of different sources, they will return to their research.
 - ⇒ Students access a variety of source types to fill the gaps in information left by their original source.
 - ⇒ Students compare and discuss the kinds of information contained in different source types.
 - ⇒ They begin to identify the relative authority of varying sources.

Skills Addressed by this Lesson

- Identifying types of authority
- Developing a critical stance
- Evaluating sources using appropriate criteria
- Describing the bias/drawbacks of particular information sources