

Source Sleuth Sort

Decide which sources are ready to use and which need checking.

6.R.1 "Evaluation and Synthesis of Information Formulate appropriately narrow questions about a research topic and refocus the inquiry when appropriate. Collect information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CREDIBLE SOURCE

A credible source identifies who created it and supports its information with evidence. It is often current and connected to a qualified author or trusted organization.

A university astronomy department article by a professor links to telescope records about comets.

SOURCE TO CHECK

A source to check needs more proof before you use it. It may have no author, no date, unsupported claims, or a goal to sell something.

A flyer promises a crystal bracelet will bring perfect luck, but it names no researcher.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each source description, then circle CREDIBLE or CHECK.

- | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. | A state health department webpage is updated this year and lists its sources. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 2. | A book by a marine biologist includes a bibliography and is published by a science press. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 3. | An anonymous post claims that dolphins can predict storms. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 4. | An official National Park Service article gives wildfire safety advice and links to safety reports. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 5. | A website sells memory pills and says its product is proven, but it links to no study. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 6. | A social media image gives a surprising fact but names no original source. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 7. | A newspaper report names its reporter, publication date, and people interviewed. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |
| 8. | A video says, "This cure works!" but gives no speaker or evidence. | ☐ CREDIBLE | ☐ CHECK |

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a CREDIBLE source and one new example of a source to CHECK.

CREDIBLE

CHECK

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences explaining which details you would compare if two sources disagreed about the same fact.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A state health department webpage is updated this year and lists its sources.	CREDIBLE	It is from an official agency, is current, and lists sources.
2	A book by a marine biologist includes a bibliography and is published by a science press.	CREDIBLE	It has a qualified author, a reliable publisher, and a bibliography.
3	An anonymous post claims that dolphins can predict storms.	CHECK	It has no identified author or evidence.
4	An official National Park Service article gives wildfire safety advice and links to safety reports.	CREDIBLE	It comes from a trusted agency and links to supporting reports.
5	A website sells memory pills and says its product is proven, but it links to no study.	CHECK	It is selling a product and gives no supporting study.
6	A social media image gives a surprising fact but names no original source.	CHECK	It does not show where the fact came from.
7	A newspaper report names its reporter, publication date, and people interviewed.	CREDIBLE	It identifies the reporter, date, and sources of information.
8	A video says, "This cure works!" but gives no speaker or evidence.	CHECK	It makes a claim without identifying a speaker or providing evidence.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CREDIBLE:** A city library database article names its author and lists sources.
- **CHECK:** A blog post makes a claim but does not name a writer or evidence.

Challenge: I would compare the authors, dates, evidence, and sources named by each article. I would use the article from a qualified author that links to reliable evidence.

CHECK does not always mean a source is false. It means the student should verify the author, date, evidence, and purpose before using the information.