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Teaching Online Source Evaluation: Going Beyond CRAAP Using Lateral Reading

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Teaching Online Source Evaluation: Going Beyond CRAAP Using Lateral Reading

Uncharted Waters: Navigating with a Compass of Adaptability Workshop
ACRL-NJ/NJLA CUS Assessment Committee

July 1, 2020

Andrea Baer, History and Political Science Librarian
Dan Kipnis, Life Sciences Librarian
Rowan University



Online learning

- Source evaluation critical across disciplines and in and beyond university
- Rowan University
 - 20,000+ FTE
 - Significant growth
- COVID-19 reality



Image: Growth by Naddsy
<https://bit.ly/2BEIChL>

What is lateral reading?

- Reading “across sources” to see what others say about a web source (spending limited time on the web source itself when initially evaluating it)
- The practice of fact-checkers



Image: "[along the canal](#)" by [Kalense Kid](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

Why “Lateral Reading”?

- Limitations of evaluation checklists like CRAAP and RADCAB ([Caulfield, 2018](#))
- Research on “civic online reasoning” by the [Stanford History Education Group \(SHEG\)](#) ([Breakstone et al. 2019](#); [McGrew et al. 2019](#))

MUST do every day: Date: _____

- breakfast _____
- lunch _____
- supper _____
- snack when needed _____
- drink water _____
- am meds (meds 1) _____
- daily vitamins/supplements (meds 2) _____
- lunchtime meds (meds 3) _____
- evening meds (meds 4) _____
- copaxone site: _____ time: _____

'SHOULD' do most days, if well enough:

- get out of bed _____
- shower / flannel wash _____
- shave _____
- wash hair _____
- get dressed / change out of pyjamas _____
- clean teeth + floss _____
- open / sort post _____
- clean cats' litter-tray _____

COULD do when I have any spare energy:

- read LJ _____
- read other web stuff _____
- read a book / magazine _____
- watch TV _____
- play WoW _____
- play other games e.g. PS2 / yahoo _____
- artwork / sketching / drawing / crafts _____
- take photos – indoors / out _____
- post photos to website / LJ _____
- go for a walk / to the gym / swimming _____
- housework / laundry _____
- cooking / baking _____
- other _____

- Image: "[checklist](#)" by [natsford](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

Why “Lateral Reading”?

“Online Verification Skills: Investigate the Source”



Go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hB6qjlxKItA&t=24s>.

Watch to 1:22 mark.

Seeming Simplicity

Lateral reading is seemingly simple, but sometimes tricky.

- How widely do you read? How deeply do you go?
(balancing depth of source analysis and time constraints)
- Getting creative when information on a source isn't readily found
- The power of beliefs and confirmation bias



Image: "[One](#)" by [Damian Gadal](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

The Power of Beliefs



Confirmation bias: tendency to more readily believe information that fit one's preexisting views and to discount information that challenges those views

Backfire effect: upon having one's strongly held views are challenged, those views often become stronger

Sources that require more careful evaluation are often on topics about which people may have strong pre-existing views. (e.g., vaccines, traditional/alternative medicine, government/economic policies).

The Power of Pausing



Step 1 of SIFT: Stop/Pause - allows time for people to move past initial reflexes and to a more critical mindframe.

“STOP. Pause. Ask yourself if you recognize the information source and if you know anything about the website or the claim's reputation. ...Also take note if you have a strong reaction to the information you see (e.g., joy, pride, anger). If so, slow down before you share or use that information. We tend to react quickly and with less thought to things that evoke strong feelings. ...

SIFT and 4 Moves: <https://libguides.rowan.edu/EvaluatingOnlineSources>



SIFT

1. STOP. Pause and ask yourself
2. INVESTIGATE the source
3. FIND trusted coverage
4. TRACE claims, quotes, and media back to the original context.

From Mike Caulfield's [SIFT \(Four Moves\)](#)

4 Moves

1. Check the previous work
2. Go upstream to the source
3. Read laterally
4. Circle Back

From Mike Caulfield's "[Four Moves](#)," Web Literacy for Student Fact-Checkers.

Scaffolding

- Learning as an iterative and ongoing process
- Learning supports that draw on and build on prior learning
- Modeling processes
- Ongoing opportunities for reflection, observation, practice, and feedback

Image: "[Scaffolding](#)" by Andrew Wilson



Scaffolding




- Pre- and post-test
- Modeling>Student practice>Librarian feedback
- “Tips” that address common challenges
- Post-activity reflection

Our LibGuide module: go.rowan.edu/evaluating

Key points:

- Use or share at your institution!
- IRB approval, no personal identifiers are collected
- Certificate of completion



Campbell Library / Research Guides / Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources through Lateral Reading (Part 1/2) / About This Tutorial

Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources through Lateral Reading (Part 1/2)

About This Tutorial

- Evaluating Online Sources: Part 1 Introduction
- Pre-Activity
- An Overview of "Lateral Reading"
- SIFT and Four Moves
- Lateral Reading in Practice
 - Stop/Pause
 - Investigate/Find trusted coverage
 - Trace information back to the original context
- Time to Practice
- Exercise: Evaluate Minimumwage.com

About This Module

Title: Evaluating Online Sources through Lateral Reading: An Introduction

Audience: Rowan students, faculty, and staff interested in strengthening their fact-checking and online source evaluation skills

Purpose: Developing new strategies for evaluating online sources and improving one's ability to investigate source credibility in order to recognize credible sources

Learning outcomes:

- Be familiar with the SIFT and "Four Moves" approaches to evaluating online sources.
- Recognize the importance of pausing when you have a strong emotional reaction to an information source in order to analyze sources more critically.
- Apply the SIFT and "Four Moves" approaches to completing an initial evaluation of a web source's credibility.

Prerequisites: none

Suggested time: 30-40 minutes

Suggestions for proceeding with module: To protect your device from malware, do not click on links that look suspicious, and do not download files that you do not recognize!

Suggested search engine: Google

About the Authors

[Andrea Baer](#) is the History and Political Science Librarian at Rowan University Libraries. She has been an academic librarian for 8 years. Prior to becoming a librarian Andrea taught literature, languages, and writing in various educational settings, including higher education. Her research and writing focuses on information literacy and reflective teaching practice.

[Dan Kipnis](#) is the Life Sciences Librarian at Rowan University Libraries. He has worked as an academic librarian for 19 years and has published on a variety of topics including digital archives and information literacy.

Pre-test



Pre-Activity: Evaluation Exercise

Please briefly evaluate the credibility of the following two sources. Click the links to view each source. Then rate each source's credibility on a scale of 1-4 (with 1 being the not all credible and 4 highly credible).

American College of Pediatricians

<https://acped.org/>

- 1 (not at all credible)
- 2 (mostly not credible)
- 3 (mostly credible)
- 4 (highly credible)

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/Pages/Default.aspx>

- 1 (not at all credible)
- 2 (mostly not credible)
- 3 (mostly credible)
- 4 (highly credible)

Next: An Overview of Lateral Reading.



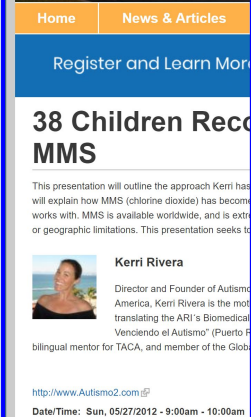
Autism One Conference example walk through



AutismOne 2020 Conference
Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel
May 20-24, 2020
General registration \$79

Where Science, Hope, and Recovery Meet

More Info



Home News & Articles

Register and Learn More

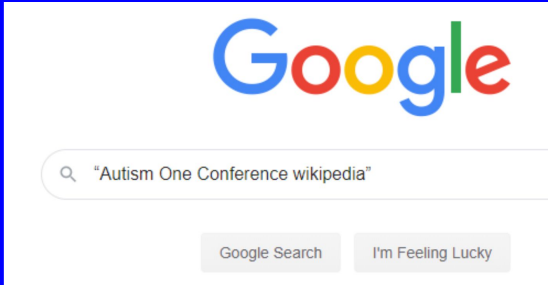
38 Children Rec... MMS

This presentation will outline the approach Kerri has will explain how MMS (chlorine dioxide) has become works with. MMS is available worldwide, and is extr or geographic limitations. This presentation seeks to

Kerri Rivera
Director and Founder of Autism America. Kerri Rivera is the mot translating the ARI's Biomedical Venciendo el Autismo" (Puerto Bilingual mentor for TACA, and member of the Glob

http://www.Autismo2.com/EP/

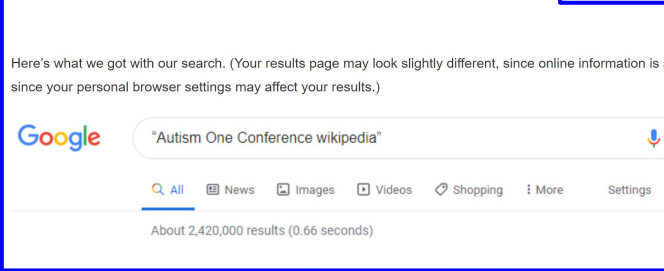
Date/Time: Sun, 05/27/2012 - 9:00am - 10:00am



Google

“Autism One Conference wikipedia”

Google Search I'm Feeling Lucky



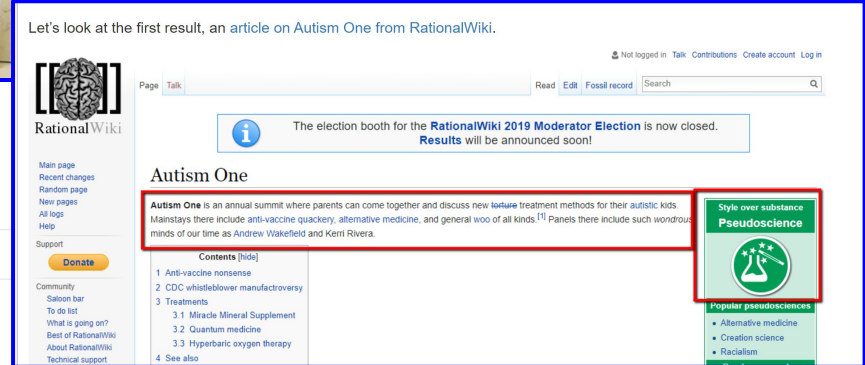
Here's what we got with our search. (Your results page may look slightly different, since online information is a since your personal browser settings may affect your results.)

Google

“Autism One Conference wikipedia”

All News Images Videos Shopping More Settings

About 2,420,000 results (0.66 seconds)



Let's look at the first result, an article on Autism One from RationalWiki.

Not logged in | Talk | Contributions | Create account | Log in

Page | Talk | Read | Edit | Fossil record | Search

The election booth for the **RationalWiki 2019 Moderator Election** is now closed. Results will be announced soon!

Autism One

Autism One is an annual summit where parents can come together and discuss new ~~tailore~~ treatment methods for their autistic kids. Mainstays there include anti-vaccine quackery, alternative medicine, and general woo of all kinds.^[1] Panels there include such wondrous minds of our time as Andrew Wakefield and Kerri Rivera.

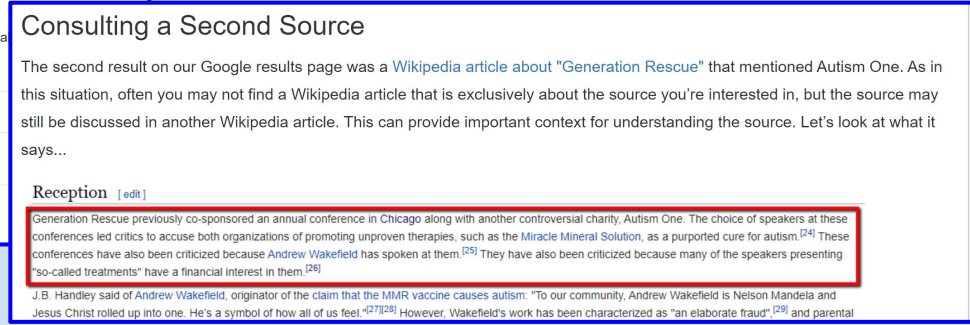
Style over substance Pseudoscience

Popular pseudosciences

- Alternative medicine
- Creation science
- Racism

Contents [hide]

- Anti-vaccine nonsense
- CDC whistleblower controversy
- Treatments
 - Miracle Mineral Supplement
 - Quantum medicine
 - Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- See also



Consulting a Second Source

The second result on our Google results page was a [Wikipedia article about "Generation Rescue"](#) that mentioned Autism One. As in this situation, often you may not find a Wikipedia article that is exclusively about the source you're interested in, but the source may still be discussed in another Wikipedia article. This can provide important context for understanding the source. Let's look at what it says...

Reception [edit]

Generation Rescue previously co-sponsored an annual conference in Chicago along with another controversial charity, Autism One. The choice of speakers at these conferences led critics to accuse both organizations of promoting unproven therapies, such as the [Miracle Mineral Solution](#), as a purported cure for autism.^[24] These conferences have also been criticized because [Andrew Wakefield](#) has spoken at them.^[25] They have also been criticized because many of the speakers presenting "so-called treatments" have a financial interest in them.^[26]

J.B. Handley said of Andrew Wakefield, originator of the claim that the MMR vaccine causes autism: "To our community, Andrew Wakefield is Nelson Mandela and Jesus Christ rolled up into one. He's a symbol of how all of us feel."^{[27][28]} However, Wakefield's work has been characterized as "an elaborate fraud"^[29] and parental

Evaluation activity (Minimumwage.com)



Minimum Wage
FACTS & ANALYSIS

[ALL STATES](#) [MINIMUM WAGE 101](#) [RESEARCH](#) [BLOG](#) [ABOUT](#) [ADS](#)

What is the minimum wage?

The minimum wage is the starting hourly wage an employer can pay an employee for work. Currently, the federal minimum wage is **\$7.25** an hour (part of the Fair Labor Standards Act). Some states and cities have raised their minimum wage higher than that. In most instances, the higher of the prevailing minimum wage requirements is binding for employers.

[LEARN MORE →](#)



MINIMUM WAGE IN THE U.S.

Select your state to learn more about the standard minimum wage and the tipped wage in your state.

[Choose Your State](#)



MARCH 20, 2020

Revisiting minimumwage.com: Post-activity reflection


Part 2 Introduction +
Exercise Feedback

Post-Activity Reflection

Points to Remember

Post-Activity Reflection

If the questions do not appear below, [click here](#) to access the post-activity reflection. After submitting your exercise you'll be directed to the last part of this tutorial (Points to Remember).



Did you arrive at a similar conclusion about MinimumWage.com as we did?

Yes

No

How was your evaluation process similar to or different from ours? Would you suggest any strategies that we had not already presented?

Now that you've compared your and our source evaluations, would you change anything about your evaluation process?

Next Steps

- Summer 2020: assessing tutorial responses
- Ongoing: Inviting participation in and outside of Rowan
- Developing a follow-up tutorial on closer source evaluation (critical questions and analysis when reading laterally)

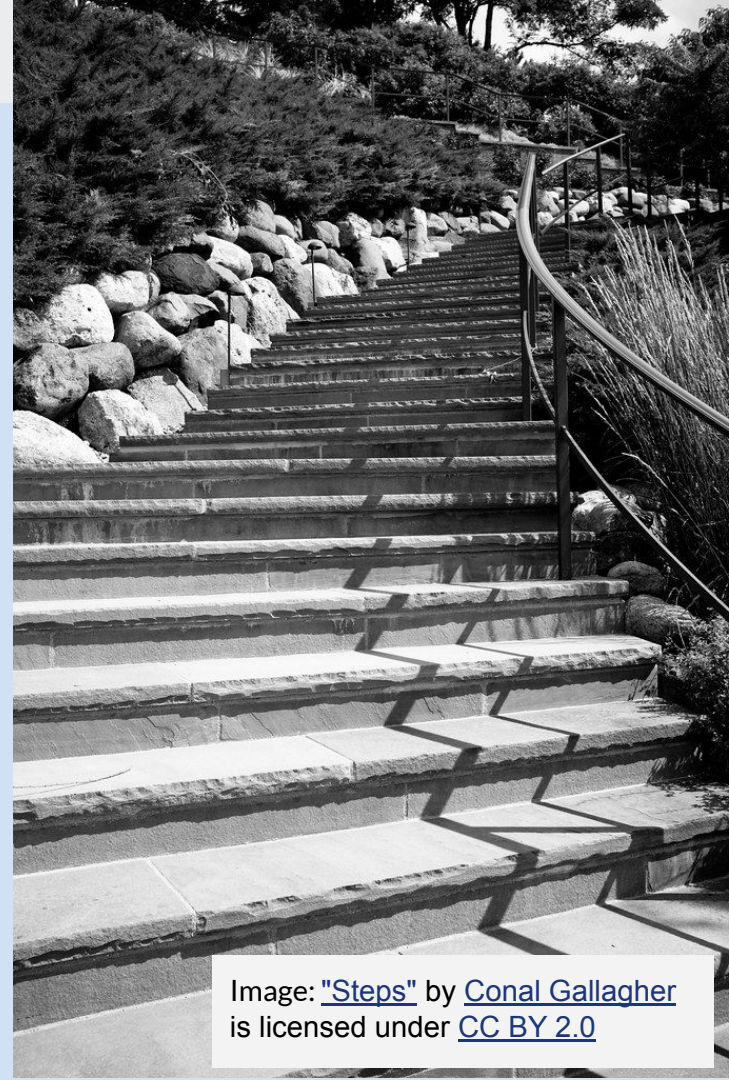


Image: "[Steps](#)" by [Conal Gallagher](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Discussion & Questions

Contact us at:

Andrea Baer (baera@rowan.edu)

Dan Kipnis (kipnisd@rowan.edu)



Copy of slides available at:

https://rdw.rowan.edu/lib_scholarship/21

References: Lateral Reading

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