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Teaching Lateral Reading with an Online Tutorial: Preliminary Study Findings.

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Teaching Lateral Reading with an Online Tutorial:
Preliminary Study Findings

Challenges to Digital Literacy Education
Stanford Cyber Center Policy
December 2, 2020

Andrea Baer & Dan Kipnis
Campbell Library, Rowan University

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- Carnegie Classifications (R3: 2017; R2: 2018)

- Rapidly growing enrollment (3,550 increase in 3 years)

- FTE Fall 2019 = over 17,000

- 176 new tenure track faculty hired in five years, initiative to hire 100 more in next five

- Pandemic highlights need for critical source evaluation & online learning

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Online Toolkit: Evaluating Online Sources

Rowan University | CAMPBELL LIBRARY

Evaluating Online Sources: A Toolkit

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https://libguides.rowan.edu/EvaluatingOnlineSources

Evaluating Online Sources: Initial Moves

- Evaluating Online Sources: Simple Strategies for Complex Thinking
- Click Restraint
- SIFT: Moves for Web Evaluation
- Four Moves of Fact-Checkers
- + One Habit: Checking Your Emotions
- Why Lateral Reading?
- Lateral Reading in Action
- Quick Tips

Beyond "Four Moves": Closer Reading

Evaluating Online Sources: Simple Strategies for Complex Thinking

The Internet allows people to create and to share information in ways that once seemed possible only in science fiction. At the same time that we can benefit from the open nature of the Internet, it's sometimes hard to decide what online information to trust and to use.

We'll offer some simple, evidence-based strategies for evaluating the credibility of online sources, as well as reading critically. More specifically, we'll teach you about "**lateral reading**," the practice of doing a quick initial evaluation of a website by spending little time on the website and more time reading what others say about the source or related issue. Lateral reading is used commonly by fact checkers.

These strategies will help you look beyond less important surface features of a web source (for example, how professional it looks or if it's a .org), and think more carefully about who is behind the source, what their purpose is, and how trustworthy and credible they are.

On this page we'll introduce you to several lateral reading strategies and concepts. On the guide's other pages (see the navigation menu) we'll share additional source evaluation strategies and learning resources.
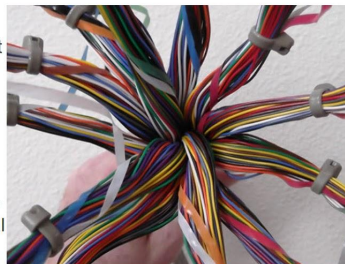
Misinformation on COVID-19: *There is a lot of misinformation circulating about COVID-19 and the novel coronavirus. University of Toronto Libraries offers helpful tips on spotting such information. Many of those strategies are similar to the broader strategies presented in this guide.*

Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources through LR

Scaffolded Instruction

- Scaffolding: Designing learning experiences that help students continually strengthen their understandings and abilities through the use or removal of learning supports

- Scaffolding principles:

  - Drawing from and building on prior learning
  - Modeling processes with examples
  - Ongoing opportunities for student practice and reflection, coupled with instructor feedback
  - Engaging with material at increasing levels of complexity

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Our Tutorial Findings

- First year business students (n=141)

- Notable increase in use of lateral reading after completing tutorial

- When engaging with lateral reading, varying degrees of "surface" and "depth" analysis

- Common use of ineffective evaluation strategies

- Need for continued practice and guidance with critical source analysis
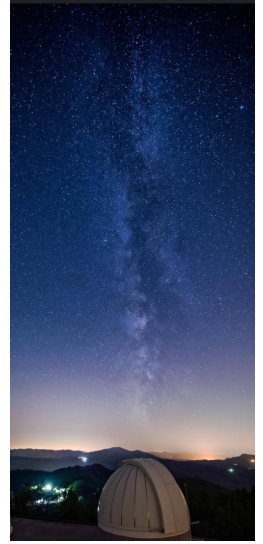
Pre-Test: Challenges Distinguishing a Reputable Source from a Hate Site

Please briefly evaluate the credibility of the following two sources. Then rate each source's credibility on a scale of 1-4 (with 1 being the not all credible and 4 highly credible). Please briefly describe your process of evaluating the sources.

American College of Pediatricians Evaluations

2 (mostly not cre…
7.8%

3 (mostly credible)
34.0%

4 (highly credible)
56.7%
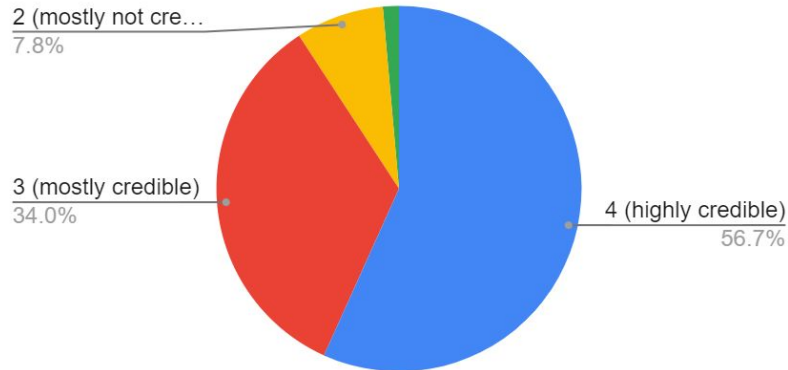
American Academy of Pediatrics Evaluations

1 (not at all cr…
2.9%

2 (mostly not c…
8.1%

4 (highly credi…
51.5%

3 (mostly credi…
37.5%
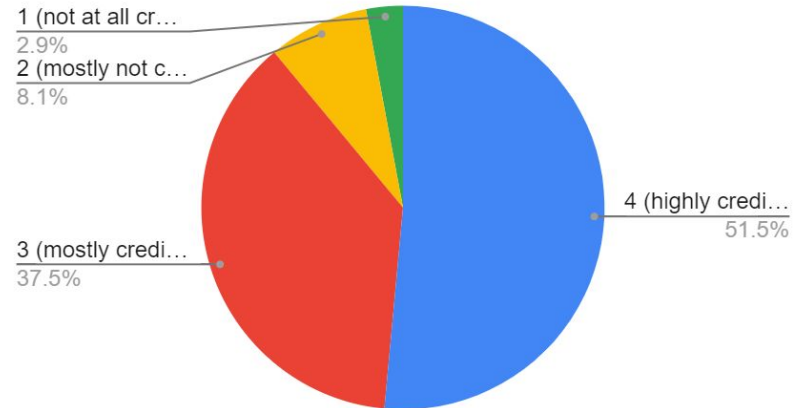
Final Activity: Evaluating Minimumwage.com

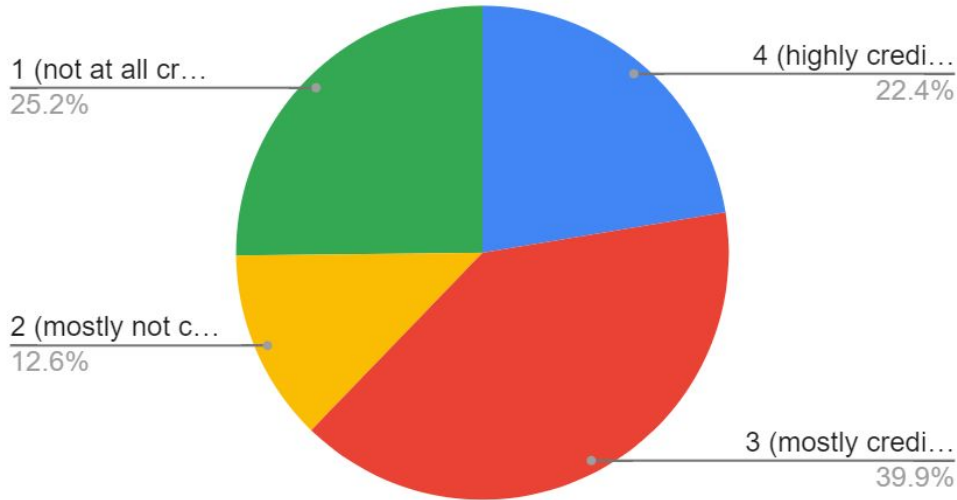Based on a scale of 1 (not at all credible) to 4 (highly credible),

how trustworthy is Minimumwage.com? Explain your reasoning.

How did you decide how trustworthy MinimumWage.com is?

What evidence supports your assessment?

Minimumwage.com Evaluations

- 1 (not at all cr…) 25.2%
- 4 (highly credi…) 22.4%
- 2 (mostly not c…) 12.6%
- 3 (mostly credi…) 39.9%

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 ▾

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

This Small Business Saturday.

Next Steps

- Further analysis of data

- Developing two follow-up tutorials
  - 2: Lateral Reading + Critical Source Analysis
  - 3: Perspective & Bias

- Continued outreach to faculty and librarians to adopt our tutorials

Questions

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Slides available at:
https://rdw.rowan.edu/lib_scholarship/27/

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