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An Interactive Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources Through Lateral Reading

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An Interactive Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources Through Lateral Reading



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The National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) Conference

July 15, 2022

Slides: https://rdw.rowan.edu/lib_scholarship/36/

Poll

- What best describes your teaching context?
- Are you familiar with lateral reading as an approach to online source evaluation?



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Information Literacy in an Interconnected World



"Spider's Web" by kndynt2099
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Your Teaching Experiences

- If you teach lateral reading, please feel free to share in the chat how you teach it or what your experience with it has been?

Lateral Reading

- **Lateral reading:** When evaluating a website credibility moving off the page to see what others have said about it.
- Our work draws from:
 - Stanford History Education Group (e.g., Civic Online Reasoning curriculum)
 - Mike Caulfield (e.g., Web Literacy for Student Fact Checkers)

Click Restraint

- **Click Restraint:** The practice of scanning all search results from an Internet search before deciding which links to follow
- Video “How to Find Better Information Online: Click Restraint” (2:19) (SHEG)



"Slow Traffic" by moonjazz is marked with Public Domain Mark 1.0.

SIFT

- Stop/Pause.
- Investigate the source.
- Find better coverage.
- Trace claims, quotes, and media back to the original context.
- From Mike Caulfield's [SIFT \(Four Moves\)](#)



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Our Efforts at Rowan

- Evaluating Online Sources: A Toolkit
- **Tutorials:**
 - Part 1: Evaluating Online Sources Through Lateral Reading: An Introduction
 - Part 2: Lateral Reading with Critical Source Analysis
- Live public workshop

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Evaluating Online Sources: A Toolkit



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Evaluating Online Sources: A Toolkit

Strategies for evaluating online sources

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](#)

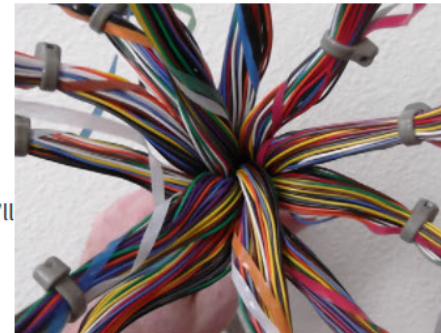
Evaluating Online Sources: Simple Strategies for Complex Thinking

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.



Tutorial 1:

Evaluating Online Sources Through Lateral Reading

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[Campbell Library](#) / [Research Guides](#) / [Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources Through Lateral Reading: An Introduction \(Part 1/2\)](#) / [About This Tutorial](#)

Tutorial: Evaluating Online Sources Through Lateral Reading: An Introduction (Part 1/2)

Tutorial on evaluating online sources through "lateral reading"

About This Tutorial

- [About This Module](#)
- [More Information for Instructors](#)

About This Module

Title: Evaluating Online Sources through Lateral Reading: An Introduction

Description: "Lateral reading" is the practice of doing a quick initial evaluation of a website by spending little time on the website itself and more time reading what others say about the source or related issue. In this tutorial, you'll learn about and practice evaluating online sources through lateral reading. This is the first of a two-part tutorial series. The second of the tutorial series is [Lateral Reading with Critical Source Analysis](#).

Prerequisite: none

Audience: Anyone interested in strengthening their fact-checking and online source evaluation skills

Purpose: Evaluate online sources through "lateral reading," the practice of doing a quick initial evaluation of a website by spending little time on the website itself and more time reading what others say about the source or related issue

Learning outcomes:

- Be familiar with click restraint and SIFT as 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 click restraint and SIFT to completing an initial evaluation of a web source's credibility.

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

[Evaluating Online Sources: Part 1 Introduction](#)

[Pre-Activity](#)

[An Overview of "Lateral Reading"](#)

[Click Restraint](#)

[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](#)

Tutorial 2:

Lateral Reading with Critical Source Analysis

Tutorial: Lateral Reading with Critical Source Analysis (Part 1/2)

The second of a two-part tutorial series on evaluating online sources through lateral reading

About This Tutorial

[About This Tutorial](#)[More Information for Instructors](#)

Introduction

[Pre-Activity: Evaluation Exercise](#)[Pre-Activity Feedback](#)[Bringing Closer Analysis to Lateral Reading](#)[Critical Questions for Source Evaluation](#)[Remember Click Restraint](#)[Closer Evaluation Strategies in Practice](#)[Closer Evaluation of Minimumwage.com](#)[Evaluation Activity: Heartland Institute](#)

About This Tutorial

Title: Lateral Reading with Critical Source Analysis

Description: This is the second of the two-part tutorial series Evaluating Online Sources. Building on the first tutorial, this resource brings together lateral reading strategies and closer source analysis.

Prerequisite: Completion of tutorial [Evaluating Online Sources through Lateral Reading: An Introduction](#)

Audience: Anyone interested in strengthening their fact-checking and online source evaluation skills

Purpose: Developing skills in deeper source analysis by using lateral reading in combination with critical questions.

Learning outcomes:

- Review the concept of lateral reading, including the related strategies of click restraint and SIFT.
- Apply the evaluative questions **what**, **who**, **why**, and **how** to closer source analysis of a website.
- Reflect on how your source evaluation process during this tutorial can be applied to your everyday and academic life.

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



What We've Learned

- Students need continued exposure and practice with these strategies
- Unlearning what they have been taught in the past
 - (e.g., Wikipedia is bad source, Evaluation Checklist)
 - Over-reliance on aesthetics as an indicator of credibility
- The need for this instruction is apparent across all disciplines

Questions & Reflections

Please share:

- any thoughts or questions
- how you might use any of these concepts or materials in your teaching



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Thank you!

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