

**APSU Writing Center**  
RADAR Citation Credibility Test

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- When conducting research for academic papers, it's crucial to assess the credibility and reliability of your sources. The RADAR Test provides a systematic way to evaluate sources based on **R**ationale, **A**uthority, **D**ate, **A**ccuracy, and **R**elevance.

**Rationale )**

- Rationale is the reasoning behind a claim or belief.
- Literature reflects authors' goals and biases, but perspectives are valid if backed by logic and evidence.
  - How relevant is the information to your assignment?
  - What is the purpose and tone of this source?
  - Does it show extreme bias or prejudice?
  - Are alternative viewpoints considered?

**Authority**

- Authority helps judge how credible an author is.
  - What are the author's credentials and affiliations?
  - Can you find information about the author online?
  - Are they connected to an educational institution or reputable organization?

**Date**

- Recent sources are more likely to be accurate and relevant.
  - When was this information last updated?
  - Are there newer studies or data that challenge it?
  - Have new developments been published on this topic?

**Accuracy**

- Accuracy ensures your references don't undermine your credibility.
  - Are there any false or misleading statements?
  - What does the consensus in the field say?
  - Was the information reviewed or published by a credible source?

**Relevance**

- Relevance ensures the source supports your ideas and engages your audience.
  - Does it address questions in your thesis?
  - Does it meet assignment requirements?
  - Why was the information published in the first place?
  - Would your audience find it meaningful or interesting?
- Always cross-check multiple sources and consult your professor or librarian if you're unsure about a source's reliability.



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### **References**

Mandalios, J. (2013). RADAR: An approach for helping students evaluate Internet sources. *Journal of Information Science*, 39(4), 470-478.

Stetson University. (2024, February). *RADAR Credibility Test*. Stetson Writing Center.

<https://www.stetson.edu/other/writing-center/media/Credibility%20Test.pdf>