



# Activity: Evaluating Information Sources

<http://library.sonoma.edu>

**Step 1: Learn to read an article citation** (this example is in MLA style):

**Oswald, Debra L., and Richard D. Harvey.** "Hostile Environments, Stereotype Threat, And Math Performance Among Undergraduate Women." *Current Psychology* 19.4 (2000): 338. *Academic Search Premier*. Web. 21 Feb. 2012.

Author(s)

Source  
(publication)

**Step 2: Learn to evaluate information sources critically:**

	Try it: Article from Library Database	Try it: Website found on Google
<b>Authority</b> Who is the author of the information? What are his/her credentials?		
<b>Source/Publication</b> Where was this published? How was the information distributed?		
<b>Content and Purpose</b> Why was this information written? To inform you? Sell you something? Entertain? Persuade? Important: Is there a bias?		
<b>Accuracy</b> Can the information be verified? Is it supported by evidence? (Hint: Look for citations!)		
<b>Currency/Timeliness</b> When was the information published, posted, or updated? For your topic, is it important to have current information?		
<b>Audience</b> Who is this information for? General public? Students? Scholars? Is it useful for a specific group of people?		