

# Information Evaluation

## *How do you find the right scholarly sources for your paper?*

### ❖ **Titles**

- Scholarly articles have long, detailed titles that give you clues as to whether it contains the information you're looking for.
- You may be able to tell just from the title whether it is worth taking the time to read the article.

### ❖ **Abstracts**

- If an article passes your title test, next **READ THE ABSTRACT!**
- The abstract will give you a summary of everything discussed in the article.
- Eliminate potential sources by reading the abstracts instead of the whole article, saving you time and frustration.

### ❖ **The perfect source**

- If an article passes the title and abstract test, then read the article.
- While reading, look for quotes or ideas that support your thesis to cite in your paper.
- If only a portion of the article discusses your topic, or if an article covers just one aspect of your topic, you can still utilize them as sources.
- Look for balance! It is okay if you find a source that relates to your topic but opposes your thesis. Use it to refute or acknowledge their points to keep both your sources and your paper well-rounded.
- The point is...every article you find is not going to be *the perfect* source for your paper. However, it could still be a very good article to cite in your paper.

*Don't stress over trying to find a bunch of perfect sources for your research paper!*

Remember opposing views are great sources too!  
So are sources that cover a particular aspect of your topic!

### ❖ **It's an art**

- Our research databases make it easy to ensure you use reliable, scholarly sources.
- Whether a particular source is relevant to your paper is up to you! Use the tips above and your own judgment to find sources.
- You may even decide to alter your topic if an article inspires you!
- Feeling stuck? Ask a librarian for help! That's our job – and we're happy to do it!

Contact your Campus Library for a more in-depth tutorial on this topic!