Comp 2: Evaluating Sources Group Activity

This is a group exercise. You will be working with the people at your table.

Scenario: You have been looking for research to support banning energy drinks in K-12 schools. On your table is a folder that includes copies of three different sources.

You will be reading these sources and evaluating their credibility based on the P.R.O.V.E.N. Test. On the back of this handout is the chart you will be filling out with your group members based on the P.R.O.V.E.N. criteria. Quick notes are OK; you will be sharing the general idea with the class.

We’ve provided copies of the P.R.O.V.E.N. Test in the folder for convenience. Please ask the librarian(s) if you don’t understand something! We would like to help you.

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**P.R.O.V.E.N. TEST**
(by Ellen Carey)

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Purpose:** How and why the source was created.
- Why did the author publish this? Is this intended to educate, inform, persuade, sell or entertain? Who is the intended audience?

**Relevance:** The value of the source for your needs?
- Does this relate to your topic? Does it meet assignment criteria?
- Is this too general or specific? How useful is this information?

**Objectivity:** The reasonableness and completeness of the information
- Is the information presented thoroughly and professionally? Is there emotional or manipulative language?
- Is there a political, ideological, cultural or religious leaning? Is this biased?
- Is this fact or fiction? Does it leave out important facts or alternative perspectives?

**Verifiability:** The accuracy and truthfulness of the information
- Do the authors support the information with factual evidence? Are there citations? What are other experts saying on the subject? Are there false statements or misrepresentations?
- Are there visible errors (grammar, spelling, etc.)?

**Expertise:** The authority of the creators of the source
- What makes the authors experts/authority on the subject? Is this peer-reviewed?
- Does the source provide contact information for the authors, publishers and/or sponsors?

**Newness:** The age of the information
- How current is the information? Are the references up-to-date?
- Is newer information available?