With your group members, consider this scenario:

Your manager is the Superintendent of a school district and she has asked you to help with research for a presentation she is making to the School Board. She would like Energy Drinks to be banned on school property. She needs to back up her argument with reliable information from credible sources in order to effectively persuade the School Board.

On your table is a packet that includes three different sources. You will be reading these sources and evaluating their credibility based on the P.R.O.V.E.N. Test, which is listed below. On the back of this handout is the chart you will be filling out based on the criteria below. We've also provided a copy of the P.R.O.V.E.N. Test in the folder for convenience.

The librarian(s) will be coming around to help you work through this activity – please ask questions if you don’t understand something!

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?