

# EVALUATING THE RESEARCH PROCESSES

*When doing research, it is important to find information that is reliable and appropriate for your assignment. Assignments may require you to.*

Consider the following formats. These two sets of data will be analyzed to determine if there was a difference between the first measurement and the second measurement for each individual in the program. The focus is on information that is of immediate interest to the public and these articles are written in a way that a general audience will be able to understand. What affiliations does the author have? In the obesity study, the researcher compares the measurements of weight, percentage of body fat, and cholesterol that were taken at the first meeting of the subjects to the measurements of the same variables at the final program session. This takes extra time, but looking at the reference list, bibliography, or notes section of any source you use to gauge the quality of the research done by the author of that source can be an important extra step. Knowing When to Stop For some researchers, the process of searching for and evaluating sources is a highly enjoyable, rewarding part of doing research. For example, if a researcher wants to examine a specific group of people in the community, the study could examine a specific age group, males or females, people living in a specific geographic area, or a specific ethnic group. Quality Scholarly journals and books are traditionally considered to be higher quality information sources because they have gone through a more thorough editing process that ensures the quality of their content. Whichever end of the spectrum you most closely identify with, here are a few ideas about the ever-important skill of knowing when to stop. How likely are you to recommend us to your friends? Does the material provide you with current information? The review of literature also educates the researcher about what studies have been conducted in the past, how these studies were conducted, and the conclusions in the problem area. Evaluation research is closely related to but slightly different from more conventional social research. Who is the author person, company, or organization? This helps ensure that the researcher stays on the right path during the study. This step provides foundational knowledge about the problem area. Is currency pertinent to your research? The strength of this method is that group discussion can provide ideas and stimulate memories with topics cascading as discussion occurs. If it is a website, are links broken? These are all important criteria, to varying degrees, but there are other criteria you may want to keep in mind when deciding if a source will be useful to your research. If the information is dated, is it still suitable for your topic? Who is the creator? They define the topics that will be evaluated. Credentials – a well-regarded sponsoring organization or an expert author. Outcome evaluation research question examples: How satisfied are you with our product? News articles are written by journalists who either report on an event they have witnessed firsthand, or after making contact with those more directly involved. The researcher now analyzes the data according to the plan. However, evaluation research does not always create an impact that can be applied anywhere else, sometimes they fail to influence short-term decisions. From tweets to newspaper articles, this tool provides a brief description of each and breaks down 6 factors of what to consider when selecting a source. Any research done without documenting the study so that others can review the process and results is not an investigation using the scientific research process.