



*Great Public Schools for Every Student*

## Evaluating Digital Sources

Educator supports students in evaluating digital sources to develop students' critical thinking skills.

### Key Method

The educator designs lessons that support students in their understanding of credible digital sources for classroom and real world application. The educator creates experiences for students to evaluate digital sources that develop students critical thinking skills and positively affect their learning.

### Method Components

Educators understand that, with the access of information readily available digitally, students' understanding of a topic and ultimately their perspective can be impacted. With this in mind, educators recognize that students need the skills to evaluate sources in order to be effective consumers of information, which will assist in their growth as critical thinkers (INTASC, 2011).

### Key elements of evaluating digital sources

- The accuracy of information can be determined easily and effectively based on how reliable the source of the information is and by cross-checking the information across multiple sites.
- The objective and/or purpose of a source can be determined as to either persuade, inform, or entertain.
- The author/publisher of a given sources can be viewed as reputable and reliable.
- Comparisons of sources assist in evaluating them based on reliability.

### Suggested Implementation

- The educator engages students in learning experiences that requires learners to understand, question, and analyze ideas from digital sources.
- The educator engages learners in applying methods of evaluation used in the discipline.
- The educator creates opportunities in which the students demonstrate the value of evaluating sources for comprehensiveness and accuracy.
- The educator facilitates learners' use of digital sources to raise student achievement.

### Supporting Research

Greengard, Samuel. "Are We Losing Our Ability to Think Critically?" Communications of the ACM, vol. 52, no. 7, Jan.

2009, p. 18., doi:10.1145/1538788.1538796.

<https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2009/7/32082-are-we-losing-our-ability-to-think-critically/fulltext>

Potter, M.L. (2010). From Search To Research: Developing Critical Thinking Through Web

Research Skills. Microsoft. Retrieved from

<http://ligman.me/1mFplg0>

Walker Center For Teaching And Learning. (n.d.). Critical Thinking And Problem-Solving.

The University Of Tennessee. Retrieved from

<https://www.utc.edu/walker-center-teaching-learning/teaching-resources/ct-ps.php>

## Resources

12 Strong Strategies for Effectively Teaching Critical Thinking Skills

<https://globaldigitalcitizen.org/12-strategies-teaching-critical-thinking-skills>

Wilson, D. & Conyers, M. (2016). The Teenage Brain Is Wired to Learn—So Make Sure Your

Students Know It. Edutopia.org. Retrieved from

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/teenage-brain-is-wired-to-learn-donna-wilson-marcus-conyers?col=480811>

Credible Versus Non-Credible Sources

<https://writingcenter.appstate.edu/sites/writingcenter.appstate.edu/files/Credible%20v%20Non-Credible%20Sources13.pdf>

Digital Divide

<https://www.edutopia.org/blogs/tag/digital-divide>

Evaluation Sources

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/1/>

Evaluation Checklist

<https://digitalliteracy.cornell.edu/tutorial/dpl3221.html>

InTASC Teaching Standards

[https://drive.google.com/openid=1OV410Mwlkg\\_JchcFMabJb2LztHLcLlz](https://drive.google.com/openid=1OV410Mwlkg_JchcFMabJb2LztHLcLlz)

## Submission Guidelines & Evaluation Criteria

To earn the micro-credential, you must receive a passing score for Parts 1 and 3 and a Proficient for each component in Part 2.

### Part 1. Overview Questions

300 word limit total

Describe the importance of evaluating sources as it relates both to your subject and grade level. Explain why this is a skill that your students must either develop or master. Make reference of your subject and grade-level.

In the past, how have you seen critical thinking skills impact the overall growth of your students as learners? If you have not, please describe why you know critical thinking skills are important for students' overall growth as learners.

- **Passing:** Responses completely address each question using personal examples and supporting evidence that illustrates the importance evaluating digital sources. Writing is organized and easy to understand.

## Part 2. Work Examples / Artifacts

To earn this micro-credential, please submit the following two artifacts:

**Artifact 1: Lesson Plans**-Create 2-3 lessons for your classroom in which you focus on evaluating digital sources, through understanding, questioning, and analyzing them, as it relates to your subject matter and real-world applications. Provide all necessary materials and handouts as well as a reflection (250 word limit) on the following questions

- Describe any necessary context (grade-level, subject, etc.)
- How do these lessons show an application of methods of evaluation?
- How are critical thinking skills addressed and assessed?
- What application will these lessons have on students' learning and growth in their evaluation skills?

**Artifact 2: Student Work and Analysis**-Provide an analysis of 2 artifacts of student work (with the student work provided) in which you answer the following questions (500-word limit). The student work and analysis should be combined into one document to upload.

- Explain the process through which this student produced this piece of work.
- What conclusion can be made about his/her understanding of how to evaluate digital sources?
- How does this demonstrate evaluating digital sources for comprehensiveness and accuracy?
- How does this evidence show a growth in his/her critical thinking skills?

Artifact	Proficient	Basic	Developing
Artifact 1: Lesson Plans	Artifact includes all points below: Clearly show how you teach evaluating sources as a way to increase critical thinking skills 2-3 lessons include emphasises on understanding, questioning, and analysis of digital sources All materials, handouts, etc. are included Reflection explicitly demonstrates the value of evaluating digital sources as it relates to developing critical thinking skills	Artifact includes at least three of the points below: Shows how you teach evaluating sources as a way to increase critical thinking skills 1-2 lessons include emphasises on understanding, questioning, or analysis of digital sources Missing 1-2 necessary materials, handouts, etc. Reflection demonstrates the values of evaluating digital sources but does not fully answer all questions	Artifact includes one or two points below: Attempts to show how you teach evaluating sources as a way to increase critical thinking skills 1 lesson that includes lacks emphasises on understanding, questioning, and analysis of digital sources Missing more than two necessary materials, handouts, etc. Reflection lacks specifics to show the value of evaluating digital sources
Artifact 2: Student Work and Analysis	Includes student work sample  Analyzes student work through reflecting on 4 questions to show the importance of evaluating digital sources  Grammar, spelling, and	Includes student work sample  Evaluates student work through reflecting on 3 questions but does not show the importance of evaluating digital sources  Grammar, spelling, and	Lacks student work sample  Describes student work in little details through reflecting on a 1-2 questions and does not discuss the importance of evaluating digital sources

sentence structure  
enhance clear  
communication

500 word limit

sentence structure allow  
for clear communication

500 word limit

Grammar, spelling, and  
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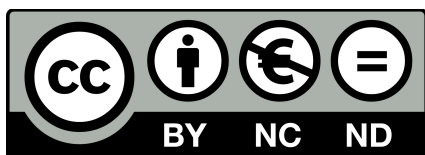
500 word limit

## Reflection

500-word limit

Based on your own experiences, reflect on how your teaching of evaluating digital sources has changed and how you will continue this work, and how this has developed your students' critical thinking skills and will prepare them for evaluating digital sources as it applies to real world settings.

- **Passing:** Reflections thoughtfully addresses the impact on the educator's current practice and student growth and development, uses examples and supporting evidence.. Writing is organized and easy to understand.



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