



# Evaluating Digital Sources

## Competency

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.



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## Suggested Implementation

- The educator engages students in learning experiences that require 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.

## Heading 3

Add steps or strategies needed, background information, definitions or details that are important to the work submitted in part 2.

- Bullets if necessary

# Supporting Rationale and 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 [Intasc Resources](#)

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](#)

[The Teenage Brain Is Wired to Learn—So Make Sure Your Students Know It](#)

[University Writing Center \(UWC\) - Evaluating Scholarly Sources](#)



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[Credible Versus Non-Credible Sources](#)  
[Education Equity](#)

[Evaluation Sources](#)

[Evaluation Checklist](#)

[InTASC Teaching Standards](#)

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## Submission Guidelines & Evaluation Criteria

*To earn the micro-credential, you must receive a passing score in Parts 1 and 3, and be proficient for all components in Part 2.*

### Part 1. Overview Questions (Provides Context)

300 word-limit total

*Please use the suggested word count as a guide to answer the following contextual questions. This will help our assessor understand your current context for working on this micro-credential.*

*Please do not include any information that will make you identifiable to your reviewers.*

1. Describe the demographics and diverse learners in your classroom. Explain if all of your students have access to digital tools (internet, computers, iPads, etc.).
2. 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.
3. 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 of evaluating digital sources. Writing is organized and easy to understand.



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## Part 2. Work Examples/Artifacts/Evidence

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

*\*Please do not include any information that will make you or your students identifiable to your reviewers.*

### **Artifact 1: Lesson Plans**

Generate 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 Word Analysis**

500 word limit

Provide an analysis of 3 artifacts of student work (with the student work provided) in which you answer the following questions:

- 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 their critical thinking skills?

## Part 2. Rubric

	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Developing</b>
<b>Artifact 1: Lesson Plans</b>	Artifact includes all points below:	Artifact includes at least three of the points below:	Artifact includes one or two points below:



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	<p>-Clearly show how you teach evaluating sources as a way to increase critical thinking skills</p> <p>-2-3 lessons include emphasises on understanding, questioning, and analysis of digital sources</p> <p>-All materials, handouts, etc. are included</p> <p>-Reflection explicitly demonstrates the value of evaluating digital sources as it relates to developing critical thinking skills</p>	<p>-Shows how you teach evaluating sources as a way to increase critical thinking skills</p> <p>-1-2 lessons include emphasises on understanding, questioning, or analysis of digital sources</p> <p>-Missing 1-2 necessary materials, handouts, etc.</p> <p>-Reflection demonstrates the values of evaluating digital sources but does not fully answer all questions</p>	<p>-Attempts to show how you teach evaluating sources as a way to increase critical thinking skills</p> <p>-1 lesson that includes lacks emphasises on understanding, questioning, and analysis of digital sources</p> <p>-Missing more than two necessary materials, handouts, etc.</p> <p>-Reflection lacks specifics to show the value of evaluating digital sources</p>
<b>Artifact 2: Student Word Analysis</b>	<p>Includes at least three student work samples</p> <p>Analyzes student work through reflecting on 4 questions to show the importance of evaluating digital sources</p> <p>Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure enhance clear communication</p> <p>Meets word limit</p>	<p>Includes up to three student work samples</p> <p>Evaluates student work through reflecting on 3 questions but does not show the importance of evaluating digital sources</p> <p>Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure allow for clear communication</p> <p>Meets word limit</p>	<p>Lacks student work sample</p> <p>Describes student work in little details through reflecting on a 1-2 questions and does not discuss the importance of evaluating digital sources</p> <p>Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure may inhibit clear communication</p> <p>May or may not meet word limit</p>



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## Part 3 Reflection

(400-500 words)

Use the word count as a guide to write a personal reflection about your work on this micro-credential. For tips on writing a good reflection review the following resource:

[How Do I Write a Good Personal Reflection?](#)

*Please do not include any information that will make you identifiable to your reviewers.*

1. 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.
2. Explain how you will advocate to close the digital divide so that all students in your classroom and your school have access to digital tools at home.

**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. Specific examples are cited directly from personal or work related experiences to support claims. Also included are specific actionable steps that demonstrate how new learning will be integrated into future practices.



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