

## Source Evaluation Worksheet

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### Information Needed to Cite the Item

(Copy your MLA citation information from eLibrary here. If using a book or website from Google use Citation Machine)

For example:

Book: Carroll, Sean M. *From Eternity to Here: The Quest for the Ultimate Theory of Time*. New York: Dutton, 2010.

eLibrary: Trefil, James., Talcott, Richard.. "Relativity's infinite beauty." *Astronomy*. 01 Feb. 2005: 46. *eLibrary*. Web. 22 Sep. 2012.

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**Documentation:** Does the article/book include a works cited list or bibliography at the end?

Does the article/book cite sources within the text? (Are there MLA citations or footnotes?)

Are the sources used by the book/article's author primary, secondary or a mix of both? Give an example.

**Author:** What is the author's background? What evidence is there of expertise? (You may have to do some research to find out information about the author. If you're using a book, check the back cover flap. If using an eLibrary source, try Googling the author's name.)

**Publisher/Host:** \_\_\_\_\_ university press      \_\_\_\_\_ professional society      \_\_\_\_\_ non-profit organization  
\_\_\_\_\_ government agency      \_\_\_\_\_ commercial publisher      \_\_\_\_\_ self-published

**Date:** Is the information...      \_\_\_\_\_ still relevant      \_\_\_\_\_ outdated      \_\_\_\_\_ can't tell

**Document Itself:** How are the writing, grammar and spelling? \_\_\_\_\_ Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ So-so      \_\_\_\_\_ Awful  
Do you think the style is appropriate/compelling to an academic audience? Why do you think so? (Think about how organized the work is, the language used, etc.)

**Summary:** Based on your answers to the questions above, write a short paragraph (5 sentences minimum) in which you make a claim about whether this particular document would be credible support for an academic essay. You might choose to focus on one or two of the areas listed above. Use textual examples to support your claim.

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**Notes from the Document/Resource:** Use this space to take notes and write down relevant information you can use for your biography. What information should you be looking for? Check the **Planning Guide**. You should also take care to write at least three quotes from each of your sources to use in your project.

Personal Background

Personality Traits

Obstacles

Historical Significance