

Informed Consent

University of Denver

Information Sheet for Exempt Research

Title of Research Study: Researching Students' Understanding of Authority in the Research Process

Researcher(s):

Carrie Forbes, Associate Professor, University Libraries

Bridget Farrell, Assistant Professor, University Libraries

Katie Fox, Research Analyst and Librarian, Colorado State Library

Description:

The purpose of this study is to research how students evaluate authors' authority. As part of your library class workshop, you will ask you to research the authors of two articles, and to evaluate the authority of the authors based on their work experience, educational background, community affiliations, and what evidence was used to support their claims. Results of these questionnaires will be used by University Libraries and the Colorado State Library to improve best practices for teaching about authority and may be shared with other academic librarians who teach similar workshops.

Procedures: If you participate in this study, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire and answer questions about the authors of two articles, chosen by you. We anticipate that the questionnaire will take about thirty minutes of your time during class. Your Writing class workshop already includes this assignment. We are asking for your permission to analyze these questionnaires for our research study. Your participation will not require you to do anything above and beyond what you would be doing in class. If you choose not to participate, you will still complete this questionnaire in class, but we will not use the results for our research.

Voluntary Participation: You do not have to be in this study if you do not want to. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw from it at any time without consequences

of any kind. We will not know if you chose to participate or not and your decision will have no impact on your course grade.

Anonymity: Your survey responses are anonymous and the data gathered will be reported in the aggregate. Your email will be removed from the survey data by a third party before analysis begins. The survey data is being collected via the Qualtrics survey system and may be collected and used by this company per its privacy agreement. Please be mindful to respond in a private setting and through a secured Internet connection for your privacy. Specifically, no guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties.

Benefits and Risks: There are minimal risks associated with this study, as you are not being asked to do anything that is not already part of your WRIT course. If, at any time, you do not wish for your data to be analyzed for this research, you may withdraw your participation. You will still be required to complete the questionnaire as part of the library workshop, but your data will not be included in the study. The information gained from this research may help education professionals better understand how students define authority. Also, the process of investigating the authors of the articles you have chosen may prove beneficial for your final research paper.

Questions: If you have any questions about this project, you may contact the researchers at any time:

Carrie Forbes (Carrie.Forbes@du.edu), Bridget Farrell (Bridget.Farrell@du.edu), or Katie Fox (Fox_K@cde.state.co.us).

If you have any questions or concerns about your research participation or rights as a participant, you may contact the DU Human Research Protections Program by emailing IRBAdmin@du.edu or calling (303) 871-2121 to speak to someone other than the researchers.

Please take all the time you need to read through this document and decide whether you would like to participate in this research study.

By choosing agree below, you acknowledge that your participation in the study is voluntary, you are 18 years of age, and that you are aware that you may choose to terminate your participation in the study at any time and for any reason.

- I consent to having my de-identified data used in the research project
- I do not consent, do not share my data.

Identifiable Information

Authority is Constructed & Contextual

Email address

Please enter your email address to receive a copy of your answers.

Course name and number

(Example: WRIT 1133)

Professor's name

Assessment

News Article

Use the news article you found on your topic to answer the questions below. Please make sure your article is at least 3 paragraphs long. Take about 10 minutes to find as much information as you can about the author of the news article and their credentials. For example, Google the author's name and look at their professional webpage or LinkedIn profile. If there is more than one author for the article, just choose one author to research for this assignment.

Please list the web address (url), author name and title of the news article you found.

Web address (URL)

Author Name

Title of news article

Work Experience - What is the author's primary job title?

Education - What is the author's educational background? Indicate the discipline and the degrees they have obtained, if applicable. (Ex. B.A. in Journalism)

Community - Are there any communities the author identifies with? Are those communities relevant to the topic they are writing about? If so, which ones? How is that relevant to their point of view?

(For example, if the author is writing about nuclear weapons, did they serve in the military? If so, the author's military experience might mean they have direct experience with policies related to nuclear weapons.)

Outside Authority - Does the author use anyone else's authority to support their ideas, through interviews, quotes, citations of research, data or statistics?

Please explain a) which other sources they use and b) how those sources do or don't support the article's main idea.

Overall - Do you consider this author to have authority to write on this topic? Please explain your answer using the criteria from throughout this exercise. Are any of these criteria more or less relevant for judging the authority of this specific article? (Authority criteria: work experience, education, community membership, research, etc.)

Please write a full paragraph (2-3 sentences) for this response.

Peer-Reviewed Article

Using the peer-reviewed article you found on the same topic, take about 10 minutes to find as much information as you can about the author of the article and their credentials. For example, Google the author's name and look at their professional webpage or Linked In profile. If there is more than one author for the article, just choose one author to research for this assignment.

Please use the article "Citation" feature in Compass or a library database to provide a full citation below.

Work Experience - What is the author's primary job title?

Education - What is the author's educational background? Indicate the discipline and the degrees they have obtained, if applicable. (Ex. PhD in Biology)

Community - Are there any communities the author identifies with? Are those communities relevant to the topic they are writing about? If so, which ones? How is that relevant to their point of view?

(For example, if the author is writing about nuclear weapons, did they serve in the military? If so, the author's military experience might mean they have direct experience with policies related to nuclear weapons.)

Outside Authority - Does the author use anyone else's authority to support their ideas, through interviews, quotes, citations of research, data or statistics?

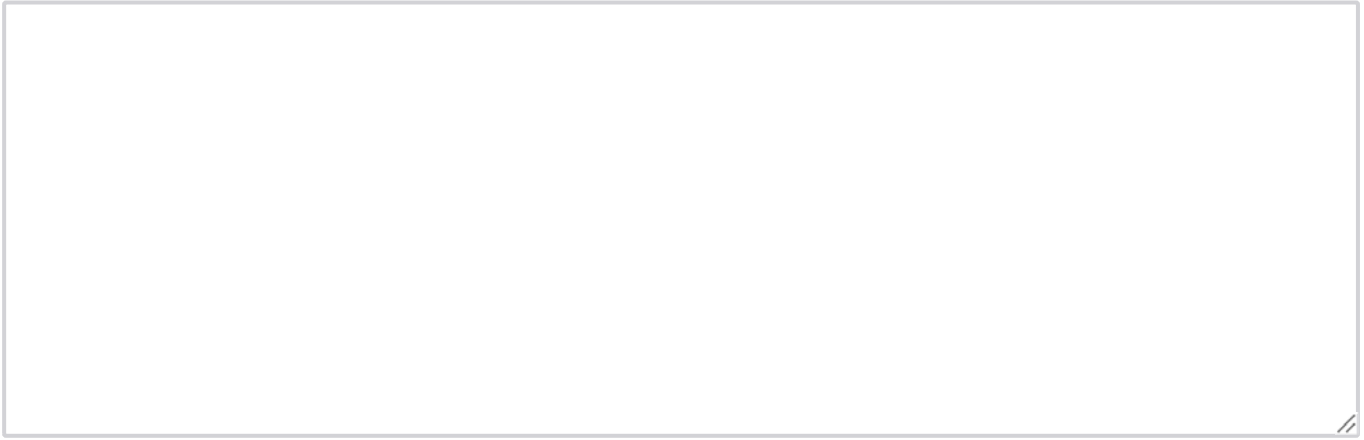
Please explain a) which other sources they use and b) how those sources do or don't support the article's main idea.

Overall - Do you consider this author to have authority to write on this topic? Please explain your answer using the criteria from throughout this exercise. Are any of these criteria more or less relevant for judging the authority of this specific article? (Authority criteria: work experience, education, community membership, research, etc.)

Please write a full paragraph (2-3 sentences) for this response.

Compare - Referring to the information you've gathered in the previous questions, compare and contrast the authority of the two articles. Based on the expertise and authority of the authors, which article(s) do you think is the most credible for this topic?

Please explain your thought process and a write a full paragraph (3-8 sentences) for this response.



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