

I found this source for my paper. Do you think I should use it?



Have you  
**P.R.O.V.E.N.**  
that it is credible?

*This list of questions will help you evaluate the information you find.*

**Purpose: The reason the information exists.**

- Why did the authors publish this source? Is the purpose to sell, to entertain, to inform, to teach, or to persuade?
- Do the authors and publishers/sponsors make their purposes clear?
- Who is the intended audience? Is this source designed for general readers or academic readers?

**Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs.**

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Does the information meet the requirements of your assignment?
- How detailed is the information? Is it too basic or too advanced for your needs?
- Does this source add something new and important to your knowledge of the topic?

**Objectivity: The reasonableness of the information.**

- Is the information fact or opinion? Is it biased?
- Do the authors or publishers have a political, ideological, cultural, or religious point of view?
- Do the authors use strong or emotional language?
- Do the authors leave out important facts or alternative perspectives?

**Verifiability: The truthfulness and accuracy of the information.**

- Where does the information come from? Is it supported by evidence?
- Are there citations or links to other sources? Do those sources pass the P.R.O.V.E.N. test?
- Can you verify the information in other sources? What do experts say about the topic?
- Does the source contradict itself or include statements you know to be false?
- Are there errors in spelling, punctuation, or grammar?

**Expertise: The source of the information.**

- Who are the authors, publishers, or sponsors of the information? Are they experts on the topic? Are they affiliated with an educational institution or respected organization?
- Has the information been reviewed in some way, such as by an editor or through peer review? Was it self-published or posted on a personal website or blog?
- Does the source provide contact information, such as a publisher or email address?
- Do other sources cite this source?

**Newness: The timeliness of the information.**

- When was the information published or posted?
- Have newer sources been published on your topic?
- Are the links or references to other sources up to date?
- Is your topic in an area that requires current information (such as technology or current events), or will older sources work as well?