

Points Card for Assignment: Earned Research Average (ERA)

Inspired by pitching statistics, this exercise will help you evaluate, critically analyze, and select information sources.

Currency—How old is the Source?

- If the article is 2003 or newer
- If the article is older than 2003
- If the article is 1999 or older

POINTS

- add 3 points
- subtract 1 point
- subtract 2 points

Coverage—How broadly is the Topic discussed?

- If the article provides a good amount of information
- If the article is too narrow (not enough info)
- If the article is too broad (too much info)

- add 2 points
- subtract 2 points
- subtract 1 point

Authority—Who is the Author?

- If the author has written on the topic before
- If the author is a specialist in the field
- If the author works for a college or university

- add 2 points
- add 2 points
- add 1 point

Relevance—How useful is the Information?

- If the content seems very useful
- If the content seems somewhat useful
- If content is not useful

- add 2 points
- add 1 point
- subtract 1 point

References—How many references are cited?

- If there are 5 or more citations
- If there are 1-5 citations
- If there are no citations

- add 2 points
- add 1 point
- subtract 2 points

Scholarship—How scholarly is the Material?

- If article is from a refereed scholarly journal
- If article is from a scholarly journal
- If article is from a popular magazine

- add 2 points
- add 1 point
- zero points

Now, add up the total for this resource

Total _____

9 Points and above = Excellent source

5-8 Points = Acceptable Source

4 or fewer Points = Potentially useful as background material, but keep looking

Of the three sources you have evaluated, circle the “ranking” this source would receive

#1

#2

#3

Please justify your ranking with a few statements about your judgment of the sources: