

# COMPARING SOURCES

**SUBJECT:** Critical evaluation of information online

**LESSON TOPIC:** Comparing different sources on the same topic online

**DURATION:** 50 minutes

## LEARNING OBJECTIVE/S:

Students will acquire the ability to compare and evaluate multiple sources of information on the same topic.

**Competencies acquired:** students will learn to identify and assess biases and inconsistencies across various sources and improve their overall information literacy by applying criteria to evaluate the credibility and reliability of different sources.

## MATERIALS/RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Module 4 (<https://www.digi-civis.eu/e-learning>)
- Source detective worksheet
- Computers or printed articles or news on a single topic (e.g., climate change, a recent political event, etc.)

## METHODS/TECHNIQUES:

Students will engage in the "source detective" activity, where they compare different sources on the same topic and evaluate their credibility.

## LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

### PREPARATION:

- Select a topic that is relevant to the students (e.g., environmental issues, technology trends, or a newsworthy event) and gather three or four articles from different sources that provide varying perspectives on the same subject (for example this article from [M&G](#) and this article from [Business Standard](#) on virtual reality).
- Print the Source Detective worksheet to be completed by students.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

- Start by asking students to recount a time when they found conflicting information online. What did they do?
- Introduce the Source Detective activity, explaining that they will act as detectives to investigate their assigned sources.
- Divide students into small groups and provide each group with a different source and the Source Detective worksheet.
- Groups will analyze their sources for 20 minutes and prepare to present their findings, including a “verdict” on how reliable they find the source. This verdict will be presented to the class.

### MORE INFORMATION TO LEARN MORE:

- [How to Spot Fake News | Hannah Logue](#)
- [Hot Topics: Fake News and Misinformation](#)

### ANNEXES:

- A Source Detective worksheet that includes questions on source credibility, bias and conclusions.

### HOMEWORK:

Ask students to choose a current topic or recent event they’re interested in and find two or three different sources. They should complete a short report comparing these sources.

### ASSESSMENT:

Evaluate each group’s ability to analyze their source, their teamwork, and their presentation. In addition, grade the homework report based on the depth of comparison and critical analysis of the sources.

## ANNEX: SOURCE DETECTIVE WORKSHEET

**Mission:** Investigate and analyze your source to determine its reliability, bias and accuracy.

### Step 1: Basic information

- Title of the source: \_\_\_\_\_
- Author: \_\_\_\_\_
- Publication date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Type of source: (e.g., news article, blog, opinion piece)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Publisher/website: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 2: Source credibility

- Does the author have expertise or credentials on this topic?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No
  - 🧑 UnsureExplain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

- Is the source well-known and respected?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No
  - 🧑 UnsureExplain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

- Are there any references or links to original data or research?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No
  - 🧑 UnsureExplain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 3: Bias and objectivity

- Is the information presented in a neutral, balanced way?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No
  - 🧑 Slightly BiasedExplain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

- Does the author use emotionally charged language?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No
  - 🧑 Sometimes

Give an example if "yes": \_\_\_\_\_

- Is one side of the story presented more favorably than the other?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No
  - 🧑 Somewhat

Explain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Step 4: Accuracy

- Can you verify the facts from other trusted sources?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No

Provide examples if "yes": \_\_\_\_\_

- Does the source provide evidence for its claims?
  - 🧑 Yes
  - 🧑 No

Explain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Step 5: Overall conclusion

- On a scale of 1 to 5, how credible is this source?
  - ★ 1 (Not credible at all)
  - ★★ 2 (Somewhat credible)
  - ★★★ 3 (Moderately credible)
  - ★★★★ 4 (Credible)
  - ★★★★★ 5 (Highly credible)

- Would you trust this source to inform others? Why or why not?

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