

SOURCE CREDIBILITY CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to evaluate whether a source is trustworthy, accurate, and appropriate for your research or project.

1. Authority

- Who is the author or organization behind the source?
- Does the author have credentials or expertise on this topic?
- Is the publisher or organization reputable?

2. Accuracy

- Are facts supported with evidence or reliable references?
- Are there citations or links to supporting data?
- Are there any factual errors or typos?

3. Bias / Objectivity

- Does the article present multiple sides or just one viewpoint?
- Is the tone neutral or emotional/persuasive?
- What is the purpose: to inform, persuade, entertain, or sell?

4. Currency

- When was the information published or last updated?
- Is the content recent enough for your topic?
- Have there been any new developments since its publication?

5. Coverage

- Does the source cover the topic in sufficient detail?
- Is anything important missing?
- Does it rely too much on generalizations?

6. Purpose & Audience

- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the source trying to inform, educate, sell, or promote an opinion?
- Is the content appropriate for academic or professional use?

From Global to Local:

Understanding and Responding to Climate Change in Arizona Native American Communities

Lesson by Andre Pineda, a Spring 2025 Pulitzer Center Teacher Fellow

Final Evaluation:

- Would you trust this source to inform your thinking or a school project?
- Would your teacher approve of this source?