

## CDAE 195 Propaganda 21 Jan 2015

In class writing:

How do you decide if something is true? For example: a claim in a commercial, a statistic presented in a graph, a friend telling you a story. What do you look for? What questions do you ask? What process do you go through?

-Look for source of facts.

-“a statement of what is most probable in proportion to the evidence available at the time.” BLUR p. 32

-look at the credibility of the organization. Look for redundancy – is same info in multiple sources.

-go through [compare with]my set of beliefs, values, and knowledge. Think critically, use logic. Is the source reputable. Be aware of biases – I’m more likely to believe in CNN over FOX.

-Look at multiple sources – if all concur then true. I’m weary of commercials – claims are often exaggerated. To purchase something I read reviews and consumer reports. I try to find multiple sources & compare with my intuition – does it make sense?

-Read all the small print, do research. Sometimes accept if trusted research institutions like universities or government citations. Some things I rely on my instincts like religion and a friend’s word, but more than not I need facts. Product I’ll more likely to get if friends and relatives suggest.

-[rely on] trusted people – good friends, family and professionals such as doctors. [I look for] reliable scholarly sources, sites with a good reputation.

-Sites that end in .org or .gov. Look for who did the research – is the source reliable? Look for multiple sources.

-Cross-reference credible sources. Look for exaggeration or reporting just to report.

-What is the background info? The person’s background [who is reporting]. Is the piece written to sway. Be wary of bias.

-I usually do not believe most of what I hear. For commercial products – Amazon Reviews. I look for agreement among experts/authorities for facts. I rely on my parents to de-spin.

-I look for credibility in the sources. Where is the info from? BBC vs public blog.

-I use previous knowledge/experiences & critical thinking & research. Stop and think!

-Examine the source first. Is it credible? Find other sources to back up. Are other sources/sites have same info?

-I look for multiple reliable sources.

-I look for political bias. Is the source liberal or conservative? Do they have experts? Is it a report or opinion? Credible does not always mean true!

-I don't think anything is true – all info provisional & contingent. I take all media with a grain of salt. What is the goal of the person presenting the info – to sell me something? Get other perspectives on same story.

-What is the point of the information? Biases? Alt views? Check out the language and reasoning. Is it persuasive? Primary sources – first hand perspective?

-Decision happens in a split second! First factor I look towards is logic – does it make sense? What is the source? Biased? Trustworthy? What is the evidence?

-Check the info against my beliefs, ideology, & predispositions. Check info against old info – do they match up? Evaluate the source, is the source trustworthy. Confer with reputable people/sources I do trust.

-Look at the source. I usually trust mainstream news sources.