

Evaluating Film Sources worksheet

Using factual and documentary film

Film can be a valuable source for studying subjects that rely on the effective use of supporting sources and it's important to be able to evaluate what is reliable and what is not. These two tables offer approaches to evaluating your film sources.

Evaluating Film Sources with the 5 Ws		
Who	Who made/contributed to the film? What are their credentials? Are they qualified on the topic? Who was the film made for? Is the content level appropriate?	
What	What evidence is there to support the information? Is it biased? Is it fact, opinion or propaganda? What does it contribute to literature in the field?	
When	When was it created? Have there been updates to our knowledge since then?	
Where	Where did you find the film? Is this a reliable source? Where did the filmmakers get their information? Are there citations? Can you verify them?	
Why	Why was it made? To educate, entertain or make a profit? Is there a hidden agenda? Why should you use the information? Is it relevant to your topic? Is the content appropriate?	

Evaluating Film Sources with VOLP

<p>Value</p>	<p>How useful is this source? How can it be applied to my project? Has the information been reviewed or referred? Can I verify the information in another source?</p>	
<p>Origin</p>	<p>Where does this source come from? When was the film released? Who is the filmmaker/producer/source/studio? Are the filmmaker's credentials/affiliations given? What are they?</p>	
<p>Limitation</p>	<p>How reliable is this source? Is it objective or subjective? Is there any bias? (Political/religious/cultural/institutional/organisational/personal...?)</p>	
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>What is the purpose of the source? Is the purpose clear? How do you know? Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda? What perspective is the author trying to show? Does the point of view appear to be impartial?</p>	