

# Who Do I Trust?

**Strengthen an argument** with information from trustworthy sources. Apply this idea of *trustworthy sources* to the Action Research MISO method—*media, interview, survey, and observation*.

## MEDIA SOURCES

Media can include internet, newspapers, books, maps, journals—a variety of print and mixed media. To determine if a media source is trustworthy, select a

**SOURCE**

Then determine:



What is the date of the source, for example, publication or film? \_\_\_\_\_

If an older source, has new information been discovered on this topic? **Y / N**

Have you compared older findings with newer findings? **Y / N** Explain:



Who authored this information? \_\_\_\_\_

What makes this author an expert on this topic? Describe.



Who published this information? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the producer/publisher biased in any way? **Y / N** Explain either position.



If biased, have you compared the point of view of this source with another source? **Y / N**

Explain:

## Who Do I Trust? *continued*

### INTERVIEW SOURCES

What makes a person a reliable source to interview?  
Select two people to interview.



**Remember, you do not need to have a degree or work for a specific company to be an expert. Experience also builds expertise. For instance, you may be an expert in a sport because of all the time and effort you have dedicated.**



#### **INTERVIEWEE:**

How is the interviewee an expert on this topic?

Is the interviewee biased in any way? Explain your response.



#### **INTERVIEWEE:**

How is the interviewee an expert on this topic?

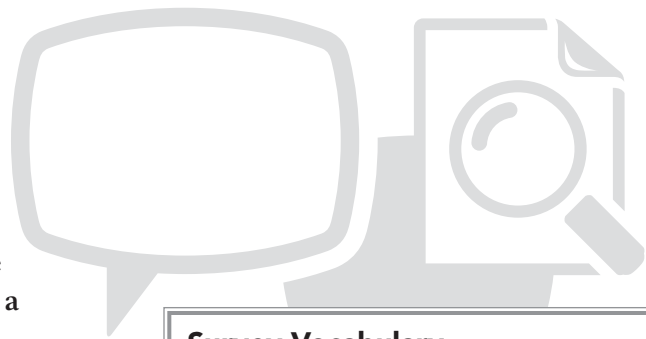
**It is acceptable to interview a person with a strong opinion or stance. Just be sure to recognize that this is likely not the only point of view!**

Is the interviewee biased in any way? Explain your response.

## Who Do I Trust? *continued*

### SURVEY

How can you ensure that survey evidence is reliable and appropriately connected with your topic? Select a topic worthy of a survey. Consider the following:



#### **Group selected to survey:**

What makes this group an important source of information on this topic?

#### **Demographics of participants.**

Remember that the more participants you have, the more reliable the data, however, stay true to the demographics that you decided on above.

#### **Target number of participants:**



#### **Survey questions:**



#### **Survey process:**

How many people surveyed \_\_\_\_\_ Why this number?

#### **Survey Vocabulary**

**Participants:** people you survey

**Demographics:** participant descriptors, i.e., age, income, race, gender

**Sample size:** number of participants.

**Reliability:** the likelihood your survey will have similar results if given to a similar group of participants.

## Who Do I Trust? *continued*

### OBSERVATION

How can focused observations add to research?  
Select a topic to observe. Consider the following:



**What did you observe?**



**What questions do you have about what you observed?**



**How might you investigate answers to these questions?**



**In what ways might another observer interpret things differently?**



**How did observation add insights or information that may have been missed through media, interview, and survey?**

*Note that these observation questions can be applied to experiments also.*