**Media Literacy Tool:**

**EVALUATING SOURCES through RAVEN**

*Verify your source is a reliable one.*

**R – Reputation:** Figure out the author’s reputation AND the publication’s reputation. Are the authors journalists? Researchers? Doctors? Authors? Is the “container” a newspaper, web site, academic source, or something else?

Your task: List two to three facts each about the PUBLICATION AND THE AUTHOR.

**A – Ability to observe:** Is the author in a position that allows access to reliable evidence? In other words, is the author a doctor writing about a subject she has researched? Or is he a teacher writing about what he has experienced in the classroom? If the article is about an event, did the author actually observe the event?

Your task: In one sentence, explain how the author is connected to the article.

**V – Vested Interest:** Does the author have a personal stake in the topic or event? How do you know? What would the author gain by lying or telling the truth? In other words, try to find out if the author gains anything from the publication or content of an article.

Your task: In one sentence, explain how the author might benefit from the article.

**E – Expertise:** Does the author have specialized knowledge on the topic or event? How do you know? Is the author considered an expert in the field? Does the evidence come from sources with expertise on the topic/event? Does the author share sources with the reader, either in the text itself or as a bibliography?

Your task: In two sentences, explain the author’s expertise AND availability of sources.

**N – Neutrality:** Is the author neutral about the issue? How can you tell? Is the source of the evidence neutral or biased? How can you tell? Be aware that some sources will present an argument and others will not; recognizing that is key. ALWAYS know what you are reading. Is the source intending to make an argument (subjective) or inform (objective)?

Your task: In one sentence, explain the article’s level of objectivity.

Pogreba, Don. RAVEN: Evaluating Sources, quixoticpedagogue, 2018, AP Seminar: Source evaluation criteria,  <https://quixoticpedagogue.org/ap-seminar/raven-evaluating-sources/>