

## 1.2 Teacher Tool Box- Authenticating Informational Sources



### Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects 6–12

#### RST.11-12.1-2

##### Grades 9-10

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions.
2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; trace the text's explanation or depiction of a complex process, phenomenon, or concept; provide an accurate summary of the text.

##### Grades 11-12

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account.
2. Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.

**Common Core Standards-** The Common Core Standards that have been implemented have a different focus and structure than state standards in the past. The goal of these standards it to not only have a commonality for content throughout the United States, but also to give guidance to the process skills of English Language arts in Read and Writing and Mathematical Practices. For the science teacher and educators who are working with students in engineering or any other technical subject, they may wonder how the Common Core relates to the subject being taught. For a student to be able to complete any kind of Scientific Investigation, Engineering Design process or computer application, the student must be able to read, analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources, and they must complete the process proficiently.

All subject areas are working together for the student to prepare them for the demands of this information rich, global community. For more information about the Common Core and it's implication for Science and engineering, go to <http://www.corestandards.org/> . This resource has a great breakdown of the Common Core content standards, the College and Career Readiness Standards, The Capacities of the Literate Individual and the Mathematical Practices.

**Exploring Informational Sources-** In this information rich society, our students are not struggling with finding information, quite the contrary, they are bombarded with too much information and are ill-equipped to determine reliable resources and determine validity of context. Students have to become expert consumers of information and must be able to research resources for reliability. This reason is why we are looking at the Common Core standards in Reading.

When students are working in Service-Learning and Engineering, they will have to find reliable information and they will need to be able to compare them to determine if the information is believable and usable for the project.

In many of the EPICS resources, the students must be able to read information and determine the reliability of the information.

They must be able to see authenticity of information and reliability of content. To accomplish this goal, the students will need to:

- Break apart the URL to determine the origin of the website and it's authorship including links and use of search engines.
- Identify the author of a site, including his/her credentials which can be evaluated for authenticity.
- Identify the purpose of the web site: are there hidden agendas that the reader should be aware.

#### Steps to follow to look for credibility with resources

**Faqs.org-** One place to look is [www.faqs.org](http://www.faqs.org) This site will give information about the tax-exempt status of the resource which will add to the site's credibility.

**Explore the website-** Another place is to just explore the website to see who they are and the resources. If the web site has a scientific advisor or is a part of a university, this will give another level of credibility.

**Credible sources cited-**Look at the documents that are used as resources. Do they cite sources? If so again, looking for the credibility piece.

**Resources:**

**Full Standards:**

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers. (2010). *Common Core State Standards*. Washington, DC: Authors.

**ELA:**

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers. (2010). *Common Core State Standards for English language arts and literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects*. Washington, DC: Authors.

**Math:**

National Governors Association Center for Best Practices & Council of Chief State School Officers. (2010). *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*. Washington, DC: Authors.