Group Exercise Worksheet: UWYO1101 Academic Career Success

Reports of news, current events, and issues are generally mixtures of facts and opinions. In writing about an issue, it is important to present a variety of viewpoints in a balanced way. Presenting your own opinion is most persuasive when it is supported by factual information and reasoned analysis. To write a well-balanced and thoughtful paper about a controversial issue, you will need to be able to distinguish facts from opinion in the sources you use.

Working in your group, find at least two sources related to your group’s issue using any of the library resources for newspapers, magazines, or articles. (Hint: Start with one of the databases listed in the Library Guide for Academic Career Success / UWYO1101, Find News & Opinions tab.) Note citation information for each report or article. Email the sources to yourself for future use.

Source 1:  
Author(s)________________________________________  
Article Title:_______________________________________  
Publication Info (publ. title, data, publisher...)__________________________

Source 2:  
Author(s)________________________________________  
Article Title:_______________________________________  
Publication Info (publ. title, data, publisher...)__________________________

Scan the records or articles. Does certain information appear to be useful for your paper? If so, dig deeper. Read and evaluate the article.

Discuss in your group:

1. What facts are identifiable from the sources? How can you tell? Are data, statistics, or references provided to support statements? List several facts found.

2. What opinions and/or biases are identifiable from the sources? How can you tell? Whose opinions or biases are they? Is more than one perspective given? List several opinions/biases found.

3. Using the CRAAP Test Worksheet, evaluate at least one of your sources. Is it a quality source of information? Why or why not?