Reports of news, current events, and issues are generally mixtures of facts and opinions. In debating an issue, it is important to understand the viewpoints and opinions of the group being represented, as well as opposing viewpoints. However, arguments will be most persuasive when supported by factual information and reasoned analysis. In preparing a presentation or writing about a controversial issue, you will need to distinguish facts from opinion in your sources.

Find one or two popular sources (e.g., newspaper article, magazine article, webpage) related to an energy issue to be explored for any of the course assignments. (Hint: Start with any of the resources listed in the Library Guide pages for Explore News & Current Issues OR Energy-Related Websites.) Note citation information for each report or article. Email the sources or links 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 articles or records. Does certain information appear to be useful for your paper? If so, dig deeper. (You may need to read article content more thoroughly.)

With a partner, choose at least one source to evaluate. Discuss with your partner the following three question sets:

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? Would you be likely to use this source for your assignment? How might you use the information (e.g., background information/facts, statistics, examples of concerns/perspectives/opinions, persuasive arguments, counterarguments, basis of questions for opposing groups)? (Find more information on the Library Guide page for Evaluate Sources.)