

Exploring Unreliable Sources and Source Credibility

A credible source uses good evidence. So, how do you know evidence is “good?” For this assignment, you will explore the Flat Earth Society’s Wiki to see how sources can mislead an audience and misuse evidence.

Directions

Flat Earth?!

[https://wiki.tfes.org/Flat Earth - Frequently Asked Questions](https://wiki.tfes.org/Flat_Earth_-_Frequently_Asked_Questions)

PART 1

Explore the website above and take some notes on its credibility. More specifically, you are looking for information to show how this website *fails* to be a credible source.

Questions to get you started:

- Logos: What evidence is false or misleading?
- Logos: How do the authors use/misuse logos (evidence & logic)?
- Ethos: Who are the authors? Do they stand to gain or lose from the information? What other texts are they associated with?
- Pathos: Do the authors use emotional appeals to try to convince the audience?
- What stylistic choices do the authors make, and do these choices make the document seem more or less credible?

PART 2

Use your analysis to create a short paragraph that answers the following questions:

- List some of the ways this website misuses evidence or misleads the reader.
- What makes a source credible?
- What should you examine to determine whether or not something is credible?
- What did you learn about credibility by examining this flawed source?