Writing Activity: Evaluating Sources

After you have read the writing libguide, “Evaluating Sources” (RADAR), do the following activity.

Below are potential sources for a research paper on the connection between apple pie and American culture. Select ONLY the top or top two RADAR criteria – Rationale, Authority, Date, Accuracy, Relevance – each source DOES NOT satisfy. If the source meets all the criteria, mark as OK.

1. A 2012 article titled “The History of Apple Pie in American Popular Culture” found on the website solofoods.com sponsored by the company Sokol & Co.

2. Entry for “apple pie” in the reference book The Oxford Companion to American Food and Drink

3. Recent essay on the health benefits of a pie-heavy diet by the CEO of Betty Crocker.

4. 2014 research study on the effects of using different shortening in baking (lard, butter, Crisco, etc), no control group.

5. Academic paper reviewing the latest pie baking equipment, published in 1984

6. Apple pie recipes in the American cookbook, The Good Housekeeper, written in 1841

7. Recent article “There Is Nothing More American Than Apple Pie, Right?” by an educator and historian found on the Huffington Post website.

8. 1998 article published in the scholarly journal, Contemporary Literature titled “Apple Pie Ideology and the Politics of Appetite in the Novels of Toni Morrison”


10. Food blog discussing what’s so American about apple pie.

11. A 2015 blog entry from the website priceonomics.com titled “How Apple Pie Became 'American’”

Now do the RADAR Challenge to practice evaluating a source in-depth.