ANSWERS: 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, and Relevance – that 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 sololfoods.com sponsored by the company Sokol & Co.  Rationale

Commented [SA1]: A food company website most likely is biased.

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

Commented [SA2]: A CEO would not present an unbiased argument or compelling research/evidence.

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

Commented [SA3]: It is impossible to gauge the effect of variables without a control

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

Commented [SA4]: Information isn’t recent and does not reference American history at all

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

Commented [SA5]: Could be OK for historical reference to apple pie.

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

Commented [SA6]: Recent article by an authoritative figure in a reputable publication

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

Commented [SA7]: Perhaps a bit outdated, but still an examination of apple pie and American culture in a peer-reviewed journal. Could also be irrelevant depending on angle of research paper. Need to read to be sure.

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” OK, Relevance

Commented [SA8]: Does not have to do with pie, specifically, so much as one of its ingredients


Commented [SA9]: A food blog is mostly opinion.

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

Commented [SA10]: Need to check out authority of this website. Articles are extensively researched and objective. If you aren’t sure about a website, don’t use the source.

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