

EVALUATING SOURCES USING B.E.A.M.

You've found a source related to your research topic. Now what? The **BEAM method** can help you decide how you might use the source.

Will the source be used for...

BACKGROUND



- Context
- Facts
- Authoritative information

Examples: encyclopedia article, dictionary definition

EXHIBIT



- Evidence
- Can be analyzed
- Often primary sources

Examples: literature, art, field observations, scientific specimens, historical documents

WAYS TO USE SOURCES

ARGUMENT



- A preexisting conversation or discourse
- Secondary sources

Examples: scholarly articles, opinion pieces

METHOD



- Describes terminology, theories, and concepts
- How you will analyze and interpret the exhibits

Examples: Feminist theory, direct observation, quantitative or qualitative methods