Scholarly Sources: Rosedale Definition

At Rosedale, we aim to educate students about credible sources, equip them with the framework of what makes a credible source and encourage independent evaluation based on critical thinking.
It is expected that students, Classroom Teachers and Grading Teachers are aware of the Rosedale definition and examples of scholarly and popular sources and will use the Rosedale framework to evaluate sources for credibility.

Rosedale recognizes that due to a variety of reasons, students may not have access to academic journal databases. Instead, students should be expected to find the "most scholarly" sources they can access using their local resources.

What Sources are Acceptable for Rosedale:

To ensure that all Rosedale Graders have a common understanding of an acceptable source for assignments, please review the following:

For all assignments, we encourage students to use credible sources. *A credible source may be scholarly, peer-reviewed, or be from another source that meets the criteria for credible sources below.* Any source used should be evaluated by students for credibility prior to use and students should be able to justify why a source is credible. Where indicated in an assignment, students should try to use peer-reviewed scholarly sources.

A credible source is one that can be trusted to contain accurate, relevant, and most recent information that is backed up by evidence or can be verified in other trusted sources.

Students and teachers should use the framework provided below to ensure that their sources are as credible as possible:

Acceptable		Un-acceptable
Scholarly Sources	**Not Scholarly but Credible Sources**	**Not Credible Sources**
• Academic Journals • Government or Government Agency websites (.gov or .org) • Published articles from Educational Institutions (.edu) • Books written by an industry expert	• Online encyclopedias, (i.e., Britannica, etc.) • Newspapers (i.e., The Guardian, The Atlantic, New York Times etc.) • Popular Magazines (i.e., Time Magazine, The Economist) • Youtube Videos - only official channels of organizations such as Ted Talk, BBC, National Geographic • Other students' thesis papers including those submitted at Master's programs; essays or assignments	• Wikipedia – Anyone is allowed to edit anything on this site and can add false information and bias. • Social Media – Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter etc • News media – paid, biased news agencies, ClickBait articles, Tabloids • Websites and blogs with news that is based on opinion eg. Medium, WordPress • Youtube Videos - videos by individuals who have no affiliations like personal channels, influencers, etc. • General Websites (i.e. thoughtco.com; study.com; biography.com, etc.) Students may refer to these as a starting point for a summary but citing them or quoting from them in their research papers will not be accepted.

CRITERIA FOR CREDIBLE SOURCES:
All sources (credible/scholarly) must meet the following criteria:
- ❑ Author names and credentials are provided
- ❑ Author credentials are relevant to the information
- ❑ Language is geared toward those with knowledge of a specific discipline rather than the general public
- ❑ Language or tone of the article is unbiased and free of emotion
- ❑ Contains sources that are cited
- ❑ Date of publication is evident and is within the last 10-15 years

Grading for Scholarly/ Credible Sources:

In Grade 11 and 12 courses, students may be graded on their use of scholarly/credible sources. Grading Teachers and students should refer to the rubric to see how marks will be allocated. Students should always check that their sources meet the criteria for credible sources. Students must also cite their sources correctly using either the MLA or APA format as outlined in the course. A scholarly source that is not cited will not be considered credible.

Students should also use a diversity of sources. Students who use different pages from the same website (i.e., different webpages from the World Health Organization website) will be penalized up to 0.5 marks per source.

Tip: As best as possible, students should use the primary source. If there are citations at the bottom of a webpage or article, students should access those sources and cite and use information from those primary sources.

In ESL and Grade 10 courses, students will not have marks deducted for sources that are not scholarly, but they are still expected and encouraged to consider the credibility of the sources they have selected by using the criteria for credible sources. Students should be encouraged to cite their sources using either MLA or APA format as outlined in the course. Grading teachers are encouraged to provide feedback on the types of sources and citations to help prepare build their skills for Grade 11 and 12.

Note: Across different subjects, the depth of research may vary. If you are confused about types of sources, rubrics, and grading based on research activities, please contact HelpDesk (Academic) for more clarification.

For more details, you may refer to**:**
- https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=441804&p=4744865
- https://learn.library.ryerson.ca/Research/scholarly
- https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/undergraduates/using-sources/principles-citing-sources/scholarly-vs-popular-sources
- https://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/scholarly/
- https://guides.library.queensu.ca/introduction-research/evaluating-sources/non-scholarly