

Research Exercise

Used Car vs. Information for a research paper

You have \$1,000 to spend on a used car. Break into four groups named as follows: Financial, Evaluate, Recommendations, Features you want. Each group will compose a list of criteria they will use when looking at used cars. After 10 minutes we will check in with each group and post their list on the board.

Then we will apply those criteria to the process of finding good sources of information for a research paper.

Used Car	Information for a research paper
<p>Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you afford it? • Is the price reasonable? • Are monthly payments involved? • How much will the insurance cost? 	<p>Financial</p> <p>Is it free?</p> <p>Is the cost reasonable/affordable?</p>
<p>Evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many miles are on the car? • What is the condition of the body? • What is the condition of the engine and parts? • Are there any electrical problems? • Are there any leaks? • What kind of damage exists? • How are the tires? 	<p>Evaluate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What audience is it written for? • Is it based on research? • Is it an opinion or editorial? • It is a review of another work? • Can you gauge its accuracy? • Is it biased or slanted in one direction? • Is it current? • Who/what is the source? An expert, organization, corporation, government? • Is it based on well-established facts or is it an analysis?
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car fax • Consumer Reports • Local mechanic you trust 	<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referred to/cited in another publication? • Good reviews? • Professor or librarian?
<p>Features you want</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color • Interior • Amount of interior room • Meets my needs (size, hauling, long distance vs. commute, sporty, 4x4, etc.) • A/C, CD, sun roof, power windows, good heater and defroster. • Comfortable to drive • 4 or 6 cylinder • Gas mileage 	<p>Features you want</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I have to travel to get it? • Can I access it quickly • Is it understandable? • Is it at my level, not too intellectual and/or not juvenile?

Types of Information Sources

For each item in the list below, identify what kind of information it is and put it in the appropriate place in the grid.

- Diary newspaper article
- Billboard
- Brochure about an appliance
- College catalog
- Ad in a magazine
- Best-selling novel
- Scientific research article
- Book the history of WWII
- Recipe
- Instructions left for the babysitter

	Objective	Subjective
Primary		
Secondary		
Tertiary		

Adapted from:

Burkhardt, J. M., MacDonald, M. C., & Rathemacher, A. J. (2010). *Teaching information literacy: 50 standards-based exercises for college students*. Chicago: American Library Association.