



REAL BAD NEWS

RESEARCH AND TEACHING GUIDE

Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans | www.professorevans.net | © SYE 2022

“Give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he’ll eat forever.” ~African Proverb

“Give students a source, and they’ll read for a day. Teach them how to find sources and they’ll read forever.” ~Stephanie Y. Evans

When I began as a professor in 2003, I created the tool below for my research courses. I require *at least* 10 different source types for final papers in all of my classes (graduate and undergraduate). Below is a detailed list of required primary, secondary, and tertiary sources for research papers along with my evaluation criteria. **Scholars without sources are REAL BAD NEWS.**

Evaluation Criteria for Final Papers

- **Content:** Main idea; relevant question; engage sources to answer question; thesis statement; theoretical frame; methodology; argument development; relevant evidence; provides detailed points about time, place, and context; give point of view and acknowledge author’s standpoint; style; originality; engages Bloom’s taxonomy (KCAASE); addresses research ethics and impact on human rights.
- **Structure:** Organized with unified beginning, middle, and end; clear flow of ideas; effective use of sections and subsections; transitions; paragraphs and sentence structure; proper punctuation; level-appropriate language; mechanics; evidence of editing.
- **Sources:** Valid sources that support but also complicate argument; appropriate scholarly review; primary documents with nuanced interpretation; correct citation in text and bibliography; correct citation for academic discipline: Chicago, MLA, or APA.

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1. **R**eport, government document, or database
2. **L**ive source, oral history, interview, or video
3. **L**aw or legal journal
4. **B**ooks (two: nonfiction, scholarly)
5. **B**ook review
6. **A**rticles (two: scholarly journals and magazines)
7. **A**rchive, art, or museum
8. **A**gency, professional association, or organization
9. **D**issertation or thesis
10. **D**ocumentary or movie
11. **N**ewspapers (two: one prior to 1945, one contemporary)
12. **N**ovel or short story
13. **E**ncyclopedia or bibliography
14. **W**eb site, multimedia, blog, or social media post
15. **S**ong or poem