

During my freshman composition course, the first half of the semester was focused on analyzing several components of a writing piece which include but are not limited to: rhetorical situation, author audience, tone, purpose, stance, language, genre, and medium. This is a different, yet far more elaborate approach to writing than the one in which I previously utilized in order to complete my writing pieces. By investigating a resource with certain aspects to look for in a piece, I truly was able to understand the source at hand. For example, I evaluated these sources in depth in my source based essay and used these factors in determining how credible a source may be, as well as the stance they are most likely to take on the subject matter, along with what impacts it may have on the overall argument at hand. One of the sources, a peer reviewed medical journal, had featured a former hockey player as one of their contributors. By looking in depth this allowed me to spot a potential for bias, and understand which way this may influence the source, therefore leaving myself in a spot to determine how to best use, as well as integrate the source into my writing. Evaluating smaller factors like this when choosing sources, significantly improved my writing ability, and has allowed me to fully understand how to smoothly integrate a source into my writing piece. Understanding these terms has not only improved my writing towards this course, but the outcome is evident with my works in other course, especially understanding bias, as my major (political science) involves viewing and using a significant number of biased sources.