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**Is the Source Legitimate?**

**Directions: As you read the article, fill in the right side of the chart. These questions should help you decide if the source you are looking at is legitimate or not.**

Is the source Legitimate? (Purdue OWL, n.d.)

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| Ask the following questions to decide if source is legitimate | Fill in your answers: |
| **Who is the author?** Legitimate sources are written by authors who have experience and respect in their field of study. These authors will cite their sources so others can check them for accuracy and explanation of what they have written. |  |
| **When was the source written?** Most often you want to look for recent sources for your topic. Depending on the topic, the information could be out of date if it is several years old, for example information on cell phones will be completely different ten years ago than it is today. Other topics the date is note as big of a deal, like the American Revolution, information has not changed a whole lot on the American Revolution in the last ten years. |  |
| **What was the author’s reason for writing?** Is the author pushing his or her views of the topic, or are they presenting the facts in a neutral, bias free way? Just because the author is pointing out a particular view does not mean the source is not legitimate, but you must be careful that do not slate to one side or the other. |  |