

Gale In Context: High School

Lateral Reading

What is lateral reading?

Lateral reading is a **critical thinking technique** used to evaluate the **credibility** and **reliability** of online information. Unlike traditional vertical reading, which involves focusing solely on the content of a single source, lateral reading involves **gathering information from various sources** and making informed judgments about the credibility and accuracy of the information being presented.

When employing lateral reading, individuals typically **open multiple browser tabs or windows to search for additional information about the source, the author, and the claims** made within the content. This approach allows for a broader understanding of the topic and helps identify potential biases or misinformation.

View the video, [Check Yourself with Lateral Reading](#) by Crash Course, and answer the questions below while following along. Be sure you are signed into *Gale In Context: High School* BEFORE clicking the video link.

1. Why is it important to ask the question “what is the evidence?”?
2. Can we believe whatever a trustworthy source says without considering the evidence? Why or why not?
3. What does John say evidence can include?
4. Describe the Facebook post about the deadly spider that went viral in the summer of 2018. What evidence does it provide?
5. Why did the fact-checking site Snopes debunk the deadly spider post?
6. Give an example of how evidence alone is not enough to verify a claim.

7. What is a spurious correlation? Provide an example.

8. What is the danger of spreading misinformation or relying on irrelevant evidence?

9. How does the video explain the concept of correlation not implying causation? Provide an example.

10. Why is it important to be cautious of conspiracy theories and complex claims on the internet?

Use *Gale In Context: High School* to define the following information literacy terms. Provide an example of each.

- Fake news -

- Satire -

- Bias -

- Clickbait -

- Conspiracy -

- State News (propaganda) -

Using the internet search engine of your choice, conduct a search on one of the following topics:

- Miracle Cures
- UFO Sightings
- Get Rich Quick

Select an article from your search and read it. What is this the **main subject** of the article? For example, a specific supplement that is said to be a cure of a particular UFO sighting.

Go back to your internet search engine to search for answers to the following questions to check the credibility of your article. Remember when using lateral reading, you will have multiple tabs open researching every aspect of the article.

What information can you find about the outlet publishing your article? Do they have a history of publishing accurate and trustworthy information? Are there any reported biases?

Who is the author? What is their writing history? Are they considered reliable? Any biases?

Does the article contain any links or references to studies or statistics? Are they from reputable sources? Could you find the same information published on other outlets as well?

What other information did you find that helped you on your path to determining credibility and reliability?

After lateral reading, do you consider your original source credible and reliable? Why or why not?

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What differences do you notice when searching in a database versus using an internet search engine?

Go back to your internet search engine and conduct an additional search based on your article. We want to **fact check** the **source**, **author**, and **evidence** presented to be sure it is reliable. Remember when using lateral reading, you will have multiple tabs open researching every aspect of the article.

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