Lesson Plan
This lesson plan is designed to help you teach using a Common Craft video. Use the information below to introduce the video and then follow the video with discussion questions and other resources.

Peer Review
Explained by Common Craft

A big challenge for students is sifting through mountains of information to find high quality sources for research papers. This video explains why peer reviewed articles can be useful and what makes the articles more trustworthy than other sources.

ISTE Standard:
Knowledge Constructor 3b

ACRL Info Literacy Frame:
Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

Learning Outcomes

- Explain how using peer-reviewed journal articles can help you to efficiently find credible information
- Describe the steps that a peer-reviewed journal takes when evaluating a manuscript for publication
- Describe how peer-reviewed journal articles differ from information sources like blog posts, books, or newspaper articles.

Discussion Questions

Q #1
Have you ever had a friend or colleague peer review a paper for you? What was the outcome?

Q #2
For scholarly journal articles, what are the advantages and disadvantages of the peer review process?

Q #3
In which situations would you use or not use a peer-reviewed journal for a research project?
Knowledge Check Q&A

Q
When you research a topic, what could make sifting through a huge amount of information overwhelming and frustrating?

A
It is easy to feel overwhelmed and frustrated when you don’t know what information to trust.

Q
Multiple choice. Which of the following resources uses a rigorous process designed to make trustworthiness and credibility the highest priority? A) blog posts B) books C) newspaper articles D) peer-reviewed journal

A: D) peer-reviewed journal

Q
What is peer review?

A
It is a process where journals review and analyze new information and will only publish findings they find trustworthy and up to their standards.

Resources for Learning More

NCSU Libraries
Peer review in three minutes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOCQZ7QnoN0&feature=youtu.be

Oregon State Library
Figuring out if an article is peer-reviewed or scholarly
http://diy.library.oregonstate.edu/figuring-out-if-article-peer-reviewed-or-scholarly

Elsevier
What is peer review?
https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers/what-is-peer-review

Simon Fraser University
Library
What is a scholarly (or peer-reviewed) journal?
https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/research-assistance/format-type/scholarly-journals