Who Do I Trust?

**Strengthen an argument** with information from trustworthy sources. Apply this idea of **trustworthy sources** to the Action Research MISO method—**media**, interview, survey, and observation.

**MEDIA SOURCES**
Media can include internet, newspapers, books, maps, journals—a variety of print and mixed media. To determine if a media source is trustworthy, select a

**SOURCE**
Then determine:

- What is the date of the source, for example, publication or film? ________________________
- If an older source, has new information been discovered on this topic? Y / N
  Have you compared older findings with newer findings? Y / N  Explain:

- Who authored this information? __________________________________________________
  What makes this author an expert on this topic? Describe.

- Who published this information? __________________________________________________
  Is the producer/publisher biased in any way? Y / N  Explain either position.

- If biased, have you compared the point of view of this source with another source? Y / N
  Explain:
Who Do I Trust? continued

INTERVIEW SOURCES
What makes a person a reliable source to interview? Select two people to interview.

INTERVIEWEE:
How is the interviewee an expert on this topic?

Is the interviewee biased in any way? Explain your response.

Remember, you do not need to have a degree or work for a specific company to be an expert. Experience also builds expertise. For instance, you may be an expert in a sport because of all the time and effort you have dedicated.

INTERVIEWEE:
How is the interviewee an expert on this topic?

It is acceptable to interview a person with a strong opinion or stance. Just be sure to recognize that this is likely not the only point of view!
Who Do I Trust? continued

SURVEY
How can you ensure that survey evidence is reliable and appropriately connected with your topic? Select a topic worthy of a survey. Consider the following:

Group selected to survey:

What makes this group an important source of information on this topic?

Demographics of participants.
Remember that the more participants you have, the more reliable the data, however, stay true to the demographics that you decided on above.

Target number of participants:

Survey questions:

Survey process:

How many people surveyed _____ Why this number?
Who Do I Trust? continued

OBSERVATION
How can focused observations add to research?
Select a topic to observe. Consider the following:

What did you observe?

What questions do you have about what you observed?

How might you investigate answers to these questions?

In what ways might another observer interpret things differently?

How did observation add insights or information that may have been missed through media, interview, and survey?

Note that these observation questions can be applied to experiments also.