



Oide

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Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí
Scoile agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional
Learning of School Leaders
and Teachers

Session 2

Evaluating sources,
conducting research and
finding a narrow focus for
the Research Study Report





Learning Intentions

Consider how to evaluate sources as part of the research process.



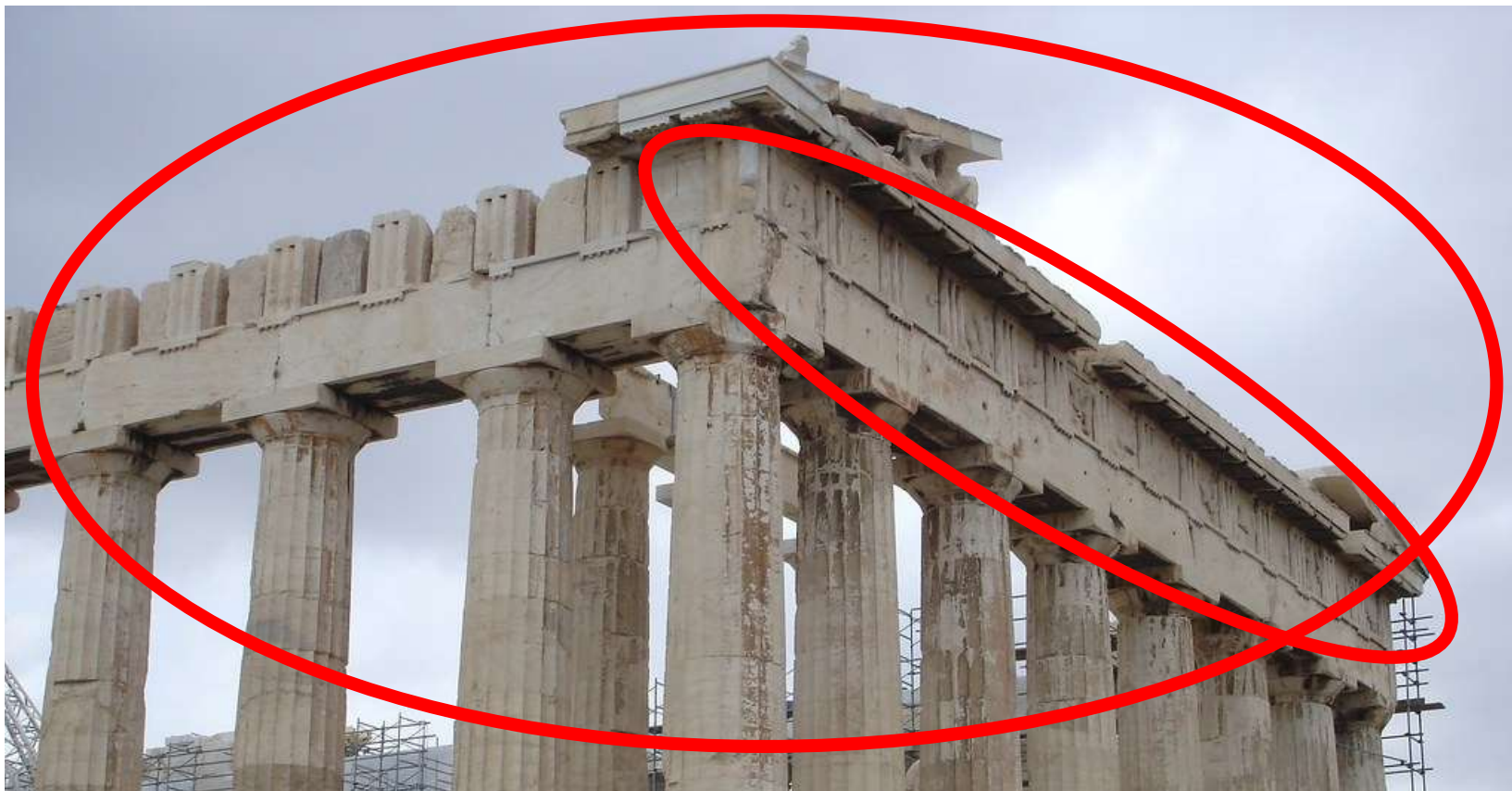
Identify and examine strategies to conduct effective research.



Narrowing your Focus of Study



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What strategies/methods have, or could you use to help students conduct **effective** research?



“the approach should include the identification of aims that the student intends to achieve...the approach should also signal key research questions that the student intends to pursue and how they intend to pursue them.”

NCCA, 2022, p.7 Leaving Certificate Classical Studies Guidance to support the Research Study.

Other Voices

[Click to listen](#)



Experiences

"Student had little experience of how to do effective research and how to write at length.....give them practice essays to do along the way so that when they come to the research project it's not the first time that they've written an extended essay."

Formulate a question

"Rather than try to come up with a title immediately, to narrow the topic down into a specific question and to use that question then to guide their research."

Skim and scan

"Using skim and scan forces the students to use the keywords from their question and to only look for those keywords in the sources that they're investigating, it helps them to whittle away a lot of the information, that is irrelevant or unnecessary."

Narrowing the focus and being organised

"An investigation into... An evaluation of... An analysis of..., something really specific and narrow, a niche based on the research topic brief. Ensure your students are organised from the very beginning that they are keeping a log of all their sources, know what the information is that they've taken from each source, page numbers."

The Research Study Teacher Voice

Evaluating sources

"Evaluate sources using the approach of Who? What? When? and Why? So, Who wrote it? Why was it written? What was the agenda? When was it written? For what purpose?"

A variety of sources

"Choose as many different types of sources as they can, so that it's not just written sources, but that they can use things like podcasts, art, visual sources primary, secondary. So they have a mix of different opinions and ideas, it helps them to become aware of bias and reliability."

Other Voices

What are the
commonalities?



How do you support your students to evaluate sources?



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Evaluating Sources Classical Studies

How can you tell whether your sources are reliable, credible, and accurate? What is the difference between biased and unbiased sources?

Evaluating sources is an important part of any research process as it encourages you to think critically about the information you intend to use. Assessing the credibility and reliability of a source will allow you to make judgments about its trustworthiness and usefulness to your research.

Not all information is reliable or accurate, nor will all information be suitable for your research topic. Failing to scrutinize the reliability of historical sources exposes the danger of accepting erroneous or prejudiced information as fact, potentially resulting in misconceptions, inaccuracies, and the unwitting spread of misinformation.

By using the following strategy, you can better ensure that the sources you use in your research are reliable and support your arguments and ideas.

Who?

When evaluating the reliability of information, it is important to examine the credibility and trustworthiness of the author. This involves determining whether the author is a credible, reputable, and trustworthy source, such as a primary source, eyewitness, or academic expert. Evaluating the source's credibility requires investigating the author's credentials and reputation. Take into consideration the author's context when writing, their qualifications and expertise in the subject matter.

What?

What type of source is it? Is it a book, journal article, newspaper or magazine articles, website, podcast, blog, interview or television and radio documentaries? When using websites, examining the URL extension, '.gov', '.org', and '.edu' can tell you whether the source comes from a government agency, a non-profit organisation or educational institute. Primary sources are documents, images or artefacts that provide firsthand testimony or direct evidence such as, first-hand written accounts, diary entries, memoirs, letters, inscriptions, coins etc. Certain primary sources may be judged more reliable than others and may require further investigation into their contextual background.

Where?

Where has the source come from? Central to this is the author/creator of the source, for example a respected academic journal or reputable/well-known website. Geopolitical considerations could play an important role in the creation and publication of information.

WHO?

WHEN?

WHAT?

WHY?

WHERE?

HOW?

When?

When was the information, written, published, created, or released? Are these dates meaningful or important for the topic being researched? Is the author/creator able to accurately comment on events or people, at the time of writing/publishing? If using websites or internet-based sources, consider how frequently they are updated and whether the information provided is still accurate.

Why?

Why was the information written/created/published? Who is the intended audience? What are the motivations of the author to create, write or produce the information? What influences may have played a part in what has been written/created/produced? Examine whether the author is showing favouritism or prejudice for or against someone or something? If the content contains bias, only one point of view is being presented. Assess for bias by examining the purpose of an article, website etc. For example, is the author trying to promote a particular viewpoint? Compare the information to other reliable sources so that you can make an informed decision whether bias is at play.

How?

How accurate is the source? Evaluating sources requires a focus on accuracy and consistency. Verifying the information for accuracy, confirming the presence of evidence behind the information presented. Cross-referencing the information across various sources to identify any disparities, inconsistencies may signal inaccuracies or biases.



Evaluating Sources



Oide

Who?

When evaluating the reliability of information, it is important to examine the credibility and trustworthiness of the author.

What?

What type of source is it? Is it a book, journal article, newspaper or magazine articles, website, podcast, blog, interview or television and radio documentaries?

Where?

Where has the source come from?

When?

When was the information, written, published, created, or released?

Why?

Why was the information written/created/published? Who is the intended audience? What are the motivations of the author to create, write or produce the information?

How?

How accurate is the source? Evaluating sources requires a focus on accuracy and consistency.

Evaluating Sources



Oide

Zeno and the Beginning of Stoicism¹

by Andrew Erskine

On the north side of the Athenian agora there was a colonnade known as the Stoa Poikile, or the Painted Stoa, named after the famous paintings which decorated its rear wall. Here a visitor to third century Athens might have seen a thin, rather tall man with a slightly twisted neck, pacing up and down as he addressed a small group of listeners. This was Zeno, the founder of one of the most influential philosophical schools in antiquity, a school which would later number among its adherents the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. These philosophers would come to be known as Stoics after the building in which their founder taught.

The term 'stoical' has entered many European languages. The *Oxford English Dictionary* offers the following definition: 'Of a person: Resembling a Stoic in austerity, indifference to pleasure and pain, repression of all feeling, and the like.' Yet Zeno himself appears to have been a somewhat discontented man, far from happy with the status quo. His most famous and controversial work was the *Republic*, a vigorous reaction against both his philosophical predecessors and the society he observed around him. No other work by Zeno, or

- Who?** Professor from The University of Edinburgh, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, previously UCD – website
- What?** Peer reviewed Journal article from *Classics Ireland*, Vol.7 2000 p.51-60 one of many about the ancient world.
- When?** 2000
- Where?** *Classics Ireland*, Dublin, JSTOR, UCD
- Why?** 3rd level students, research purposes, outline the beginnings of stoicism
- How?** Verified some key dates and names mentioned in the article, *Republic* vs Plato's *Republic*

A range of sources: books, journal articles, newspaper or magazine articles, websites, podcasts, blogs, interviews or television and radio documentaries

Material Culture

Trajan's Column - JSTOR

Civilization Under Construction: Depictions of Architecture on the Column of Trajan

RESEARCH WORKBANK TITLE

Abstract

More than 190 depictions of architectural structures appear throughout the Column of Trajan, illustrating both Roman and Greek architectural styles and techniques. Despite the prominence of architectural depictions on the column, the focus of most scholarship on the column has been on the inscription and the relief work. This article examines the depictions of architecture on the column. Through the analysis of the architectural depictions, the author argues that the column is a work of art that is not only a monument to the emperor Trajan but also a work of art that is a masterpiece of Roman architecture. The author argues that the column is a work of art that is a masterpiece of Roman architecture. The author argues that the column is a work of art that is a masterpiece of Roman architecture.

DOCX

Trajan's Column Jstor

Literature

Do we need heroes?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

ODYSSEUS THESE

YouTube

DO WE NEED HEROES

Theoi



History

Sources for Julius Caesar - Jstor

SOURCES FOR THE LIFE OF CAESAR

By ROBERT E. JONES

Historical Studies Center

US JULIUS CAESAR was without doubt the most versatile in Roman history—politician, general, author of the memoirs, and statesman. It is of some interest to consult sources of our knowledge of such a man.

Sources

Life of Caesar

Caesar

By Pittuch

Caesary: Many comments have been posted about Caesar.

Download: A 111K text-only version is available for download.

Caesar (100-44 B.C.E.)

By Pittuch

Writing 71 A.C.E.

Thought and Ideas

Ancient Female Philosophers

GREEK REPORTER

Six Female Philosophers From Ancient Greece

By Dawn Lundy Murray

greekreporter.com

Plato's Cave

GREEK REPORTER

Plato's Allegory of the Cave and Its Connection to the Present



Reading with Purpose



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When undertaking research how might someone go about reading with purpose?



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Reading with Purpose Classical Studies

S

Survey

Scan the text
Identify its structure to gain initial meaning from the title and headings, bolded text, charts and pictures.

What do you know about this topic already?

Do you need to read this text?

Q

Question

Ask yourself
What do I need to know? What is this text about? What questions do I want answered?

What is the specific information I must find out? What are the main points covered and what evidence is there for these points made in the text?

3

Read, Review, Recall

Reading with purpose
With your questions in mind, **read** the text carefully, identifying the main ideas and details, looking for the answers to your questions.

Review and reread the parts you think are important and any parts you are not sure of. Do you understand what you have read?

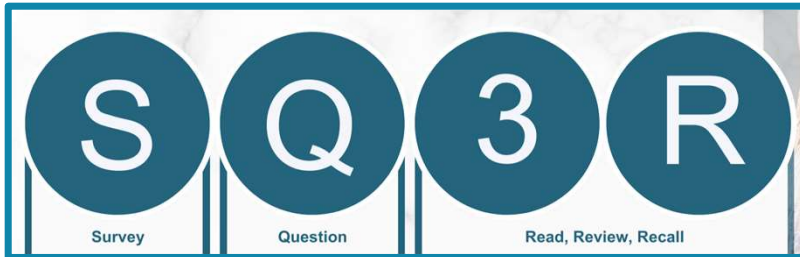
Recall, note key points and summarise them. Try to explain what you have read out loud, in your own words. Have your questions been answered?



Reading with Purpose



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Survey: abstract/introduction, conclusion, paragraphs, graphs, dates, italics, brackets

Questions: Where did the term stoic come from? How did stoicism begin? Why did stoicism begin? Who were the important players?

Read: read the whole article through

Review: going back over important pieces of text, highlighter, or areas of uncertainty

Recall: Write the answers to my questions, and retell in my own words, back to myself

Zeno and the Beginning of Stoicism¹

by Andrew Erskine

On the north side of the Athenian agora there was a colonnade known as the Stoa Poikile, or the Painted Stoa, named after the famous paintings

Survey: Intro – yes, conclusion – yes, dates 330bc, republic, logos, Athens

Questions: Stoa, Zeno and his students(neutrality) in response to Plato and established philosophies, Cleanthus, Chrysippus, Antigonus, Persaeus and Philonides

Read: read the article regularly coming back to questions, highlighted.

Review: Reviewed highlighted sections

Recall: answered my questions and told it back to myself

A range of sources: books, journal articles, newspaper or magazine articles, websites, podcasts, blogs, interviews or television and radio documentaries

Material Culture

Trajan's Column - JSTOR

Civilization Under Construction: Depictions of Architecture on the Column of Trajan

RESEARCH WORKBANK THEIA

Abstract
This study will explore the architectural and iconographic depictions of the Column of Trajan, discussing both Roman and Greek architectural and iconographic styles. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between the two styles and how they were used to create a new style. The study will also explore the role of the Column of Trajan in the Roman Empire and how it was used to create a new style. The study will also explore the role of the Column of Trajan in the Roman Empire and how it was used to create a new style.

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Trajan's Column Jstor

Literature

Do we need heroes?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

ODYSSEUS

THEO

YouTube

DO WE NEED HEROES?

Theoi

History

Sources for Julius Caesar - Jstor

FOR THE LIFE OF CAESAR

REVIEW E. JONES

JULIUS CAESAR was not the most versatile Roman history—perhaps, general, author of the war, and statesman. It is of some interest to sources of our knowledge of such a man. First, we shall survey the subject in a broad way, the limitations which we face. Finally, we shall survey the subject in a broad way, the limitations which we face. Finally, we shall survey the subject in a broad way, the limitations which we face.

sources

Thought and Ideas

Ancient Female Philosophers

GREEK REPORTER

Six Female Philosophers From Ancient Greece

By Dawn Lundy Brown

greekreporter.com

Google Arts and Culture

Theoi

Life of Caesar

Caesar

By Pittuch

Caesar (44 B.C.E.)

By Pittuch

Writing 71 A.C.E.

Plato's Cave

GREEK REPORTER

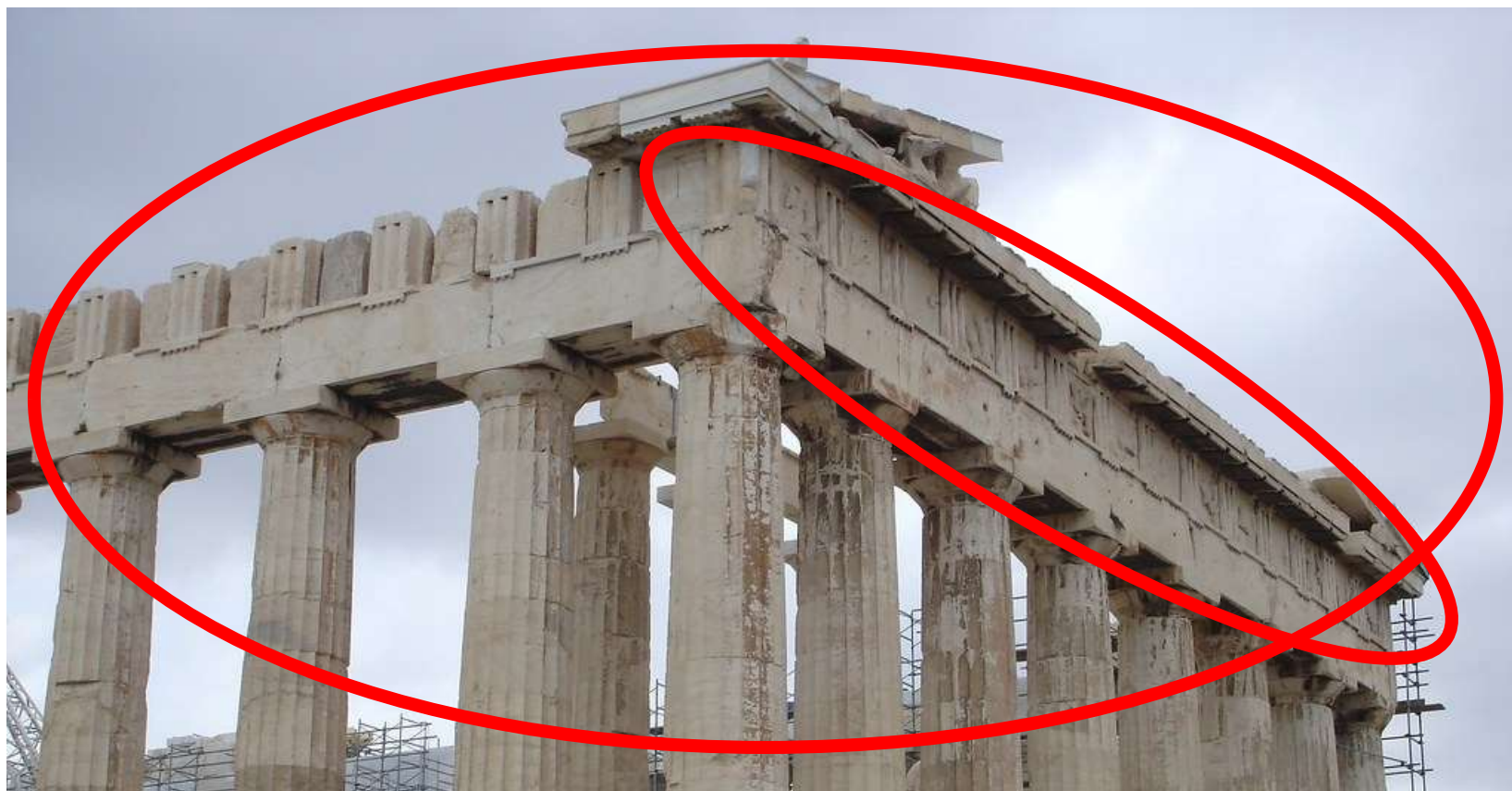
Plato's Allegory of the Cave and Its Connection to the Present



Narrowing your Focus of Study



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Lunch 1-2pm



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