ENGL 126: Critical Thinking

- Library Resources
- What is authority?
- Discussing the significance of authority in research
- Considering authority of information sources
- Using one source to search for or locate additional, related sources on your research topic
Workshop Objectives

By the end of this workshop, you’ll be able to:

● Understand how authority is central to the research process.
● Recognize the four different types of authority.
● Know how to use one original source to find related, additional sources.
● Locate background information related to your research topic.
What is authority?

● What does it mean?
● What does the word make you think of?
● What do you associate with the word?
● How does the word make you feel?
Why is authority important in research?
Authority is a type of influence recognized or exerted within a community.

Authority is constructed and contextual in that various communities may recognize different types of authority.
How is authority constructed and contextualized?

Different types of authority

- Subject expertise
- Societal position
- Special experience
- Information format
In identifying the type of authority reflected in one source, you can use that knowledge to locate additional, related sources on your topic and identify the gaps in your sources or argument to move you forward in your research process.

Example: *New York Times* Op-Ed - Teen Fiction and the Perils of Cancel Culture by Jennifer Senior