

Public Speaking Activity

Chapter 7-Supporting Your Ideas

Evaluating Sources

The purpose of this activity is to demonstrate how to differentiate between effective supporting materials and materials that should be avoided.

Each of the following statements violates at least one of the criteria for effective supporting materials discussed in this chapter. Identify the flaw (or flaws) in each statement.

1. According to a study conducted by Verizon Wireless, there is no evidence that the use of cell phones is a major cause of automobile accidents.
2. Figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the median salary for lawyers in the U.S. is \$87,945. This shows that lawyers average almost \$88,000 a year in salary.
3. As Nicole Kidman noted in a recent interview, the United States needs to change its environmental policies or it will soon see a dramatic increase of health problems due to air and water pollution.
4. I don't know why insurance companies should charge higher rates for drivers under the age of 25. All my friends drive a lot and none of them have been in car accidents.
5. In the words of one expert, "Creating a national health insurance system in the U.S. would be extremely expensive and would not improve the quality of health care for most Americans."
6. In a random survey conducted last month among members of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 99 percent of respondents opposed using animals for medical experiments. Clearly, then, the American people oppose such experiments.
7. According to *The New York Times Almanac*, California has the largest Native-American population of any state in the union—420,501. Arizona is second with 286,680; Oklahoma is third with 278,124; and New Mexico is fourth with a total Native-American population of 183,972.