

EXERCISE: Are you Authority?*

Learning Outcomes:

- You will learn that authority is relative to the information need and to the level of knowledge of the audience.
- You will learn that in some cases you can be authorities.

Instructions:

Group two or three people to complete the following steps!

Step 1. Write down some traits (ex. Education, Experiences) that would allow you to identify an authority on a subject.

Step 2. Discuss authority-What is it? Who has it? How do you know? Write some of your ideas!

Step 3. Identify an area that you know something about and write it down (ex. critical thinking, cooking Thai Food-Pad Thai, Journal writing, resume writing, etc.)

Step 4. Identify an audience for whom you would be an "authority" in the area you identified (ex. First semester college students, Americans loving to cook, people learning to write a journal, graduates looking for a job, etc.-in essence, those who have less experience than you do).

Step 5. Identify an audience for whom you would not be an "authority" (people with higher degrees in the field, Michelin Star Thai Chef, writing teachers, career counselor, etc.)

Step 6. Summarize what you have learned about authority and who can be one. Write those ideas!