**Basic Truth-Seeking Workshop Outline Fall 2014— JVB**

* What is Truth-Seeking? Truth-Seeking is searching for the best possible understanding of any given situation despite what you may uncover, i.e., being willing to challenge and perhaps even change your opinions based on what you discover.
* What Role does Truth-Seeking Play in doing Research? Truth-Seeking involves…
  + Locating, selecting, and using information
  + Locating, selecting, and using information that may *not* support your opinions or beliefs
  + Truth-Seeking requires you to ask hard questions of your resources, and to strive to objectively select and use them
* What is Objectivity?: “The ability to consider or represent facts, information, etc., without being influenced by personal feelings or opinions.” (“Objectivity,” 2010).
* What is Bias?: “An inclination, leaning, tendency, bent; a preponderating disposition or propensity; predisposition *towards*; predilection; prejudice” (“Bias,” 2010).
* What is an Agenda?: “The underlying intentions or motives of a particular person or group” (“Agenda,” 2010).
* Why is Critically Evaluating Information Important?
  + As students you are scholars
  + Take pride in your work
  + Avoid academic mistakes
  + Avoid life mistakes
  + Information empowers
  + Knowledge empowers
* How do I Critically Evaluate Information?
  + Consider the content & the author/source
  + .com/.net vs. .gov/.edu
  + Magazines & newspapers vs. scholarly, peer-reviewed journals
  + Books published by a university press or major publisher vs. a vanity press
* Research Question: Develop a Research Question; follow up with data/documentation/a narrative, OR, based on time constraints, insert a simple document (an image, map, newspaper article, etc.) for students to analyze.
* References
  + Agenda. (2010). In A. Stevenson (Ed.), *Oxford dictionary of English* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from [http://www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com/)
  + Bias. (2010). In A. Stevenson (Ed.), *Oxford dictionary of English*. (3rd ed.). Retrieved from [http://www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com/)
  + Objectivity. (2010). In A. Stevenson (Ed.), *Oxford dictionary of English* (3rd ed.). Retrieved from [http://www.oxfordreference.com](http://www.oxfordreference.com/)