**Assignment Title:** Identifying Common Source Types in the Discipline

**Purpose**: This activity is intended to help students understand the *types* of sources that are most commonly cited in research in the field. Students will also be encouraged to consider why certain types of sources may be more cited than others, and what may be missing by relying primarily on certain types of sources. In addition, students will get practice in identifying the appropriate citation format for different types of sources.

**Framework Concept:**

* **Authority is Constructed and Contextual**
* **Information Creation as a Process**

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this activity, students should be better prepared to:

* Recognize that specific types of sources are generally considered more authoritative than others
* Identify the types of sources that are most commonly cited by scholars in the field

**Instructions:**

1. Have each student locate an academic journal article that is relevant to the course or field. Or, provide students with a list of articles and assign different students or groups to review specific articles.
2. For their selected (or assigned) article, students should review the citations (or, a subset of the citations). As part of their review, they should note:
   1. How many of the citations are for academic journal articles (as well as the names of journals that are cited more than once)?
   2. How many of the citations are for books?
   3. How many of the citations are for government reports?
   4. How many of the citations are for news or magazine articles?
   5. What other types of sources are cited?
      1. Note: Students may need guidance on identifying source type by citation format.
3. Have students share their results (either by writing on a whiteboard, or to a shared document or discussion board)
4. Review and discuss the combined results:
   1. What types of sources seem to be most commonly cited by scholars in the field?
      1. Why do you think these types of sources are most commonly cited? Are these types of sources more authoritative or trustworthy? Why? Are there other reasons why these types of sources might be more cited than others?
   2. Are there any types of sources that rarely seem to be cited in the field?
   3. Whose voices may be missing from these sources? What might be lost by primarily relying on certain types of sources in the field?
   4. What did you learn in this activity that may be relevant to you as a future scholar in this field? Both in terms of the sources you will incorporate into your own research, and in how you might share your own research with others?