**Lesson Overview – Evaluating Claims: Facebook Edition**

**Learning Objectives**

* Students will construct various search phrases for use in online and library search tools
* Students will use certain evaluation criteria (e.g. CRAAP) to assess the credibility of online sources
* Students will examine sources for relevance to their research question and search need (specifically, to determine credibility of claims)

**Performance Task**

Students will be expected to find evidence to investigate a pseudoscientific claim or conspiracy theory. For their graded assignment, they will be submitting a two-page paper to their Chemistry professor (the lead professor for this class in which I’m embedding). In their paper, they make a case that either supports the claim or rejects it. They will be expected to use both library and credible online sources for support.

**Guided Instruction**

Students will attend a face-to-face library session – a full 75-minute class.

1. **10 mins:** Discussing claims using one of the following example claims:
   * Feng Shui – or the arrangement of furniture according to Chinese philosophy – can positively or negatively impact your wealth, health, happiness, and prosperity. - Class example
   * President John F. Kennedy was not assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald – or his assassination is the result of a conspiracy of various entities and agents. - Class example
2. **30 mins:** Students will learn how to use library databases to investigate an example claim in the F2F library session. Together, we will parse the example claim to identify key concepts to use as possible search terms.

This will be a demonstration and hands-on tour in which students explore an example claim through two databases: Gale Virtual Reference Library and Academic Search Complete.

1. **30 mins:** Students will receive a CRAAP handout and review criteria and evaluation questions. Then they will search online using the same example claims used in databases. Students will be asked to volunteer to evaluate sites they find with the class.