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# Assessment of the Essential Studies Information Literacy Goal

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

This Performance Task will be used to assess the information literacy goal of the Essential Studies program at UND. As part of this performance task, you will prepare a written response to a *hypothetical* but realistic situation. The assessment is made up of an introductory scenario, a task for you to complete, and several information sources. You will use information from the sources in carrying out the task. While your personal values and experiences are important, you should base your response only on the information provided in the supplied sources. You will have access to Microsoft Word and you have two hours to complete this activity.

## SCENARIO:

You are a member of a large student group, which has received an email from one of the members proposing a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, as the group's annual trip. As a senior member of the group you were tasked with evaluating the proposed trip and submitting a formal email message to be considered along with other proposed locations by the group's selection committee. One of the reasons you were chosen is that you have an internship and won't be able to go, so other members thought you'd be less biased in deciding on a location, and therefore a fairer judge.

The group received this email from the member who is set on Cabo San Lucas.

*My cousins went to Cabo last year and loved it. So great to get away from here and go where it's warm and sunny, and there will be lots of other college students. There are incredible places to stay ([check this out](#)). And we can do it all pretty cheaply -- this person spent only \$621 for 5 days! We can probably get that lower if we share rooms. My parents have said something about safety concerns but everything I find says that's overblown. Lots of people are still travelling there (<https://www.npr.org/2017/09/01/54796409/tourists-still-head-to-los-cabos-despite-safety-and-security-warnings>) and it looks like it is even safer than Canada (see here <https://seashineadventures.com/2017/09/14/is-cabo-san-lucas-safe?/>). I know you are taking that class on social responsibility, Matt, and I get that you want to be careful about the impact our travel has. That's cool. Nothing I have seen makes me think Cabo has any issues around that. Let's go to Cabo! It will be a blast!*

## TASK:

Since you are not going, you don't care whether they choose to go there or not, but you do want them to make the decision using good information (you want them all to come back safely no matter where they travel!), you should assess the quality of the initial email and write your email to the group by addressing things such as cost, safety, and social considerations. In order for the group to make a decision, they would expect to see an assessment of the initial email, any new information that supports your view, and an opinion about which sources are credible.

In your message, you will need to consider the following:

- a) Information provided within the initial email and its writer's interpretation, along with your rationale for any informational/interpretation changes you make.
- b) List new information, based on your search results, suitable for the group to make an informed decision and provide reasons why particular items were selected.
- c) Add additional components essential for the group decision including cost, safety and social considerations.

To complete your task and prepare the message, you decide you need more information, so you do a Google search that turns up the list of sources below.

[US Department of State | Mexico Travel Advisory](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-warning.html)

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-warning.html>

[Human Rights Watch | 2016 report on Mexico](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/mexico)

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/mexico>

[Los Angeles Times | Los Cabos no longer a haven from bloodshed](http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-mexico-los-cabos-violence-20170901-htmstory.html)

<http://www.latimes.com/world/mexico-americas/la-fg-mexico-los-cabos-violence-20170901-htmstory.html>

[Lonely Planet | Are Americans safer in Mexico than at home?](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/blog/2012/04/30/are-americans-safer-in-mexico-than-at-home/)

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/blog/2012/04/30/are-americans-safer-in-mexico-than-at-home/>

[Oyster | Which Destinations in Mexico Are the Safest?](https://www.oyster.com/articles/54394-which-destinations-in-mexico-are-the-safest/)

<https://www.oyster.com/articles/54394-which-destinations-in-mexico-are-the-safest/>

[Access Hollywood | Kelsea Ballerini Marries Morgan Evans In Cabo](http://www.accesshollywood.com/articles/kelsea-ballerini-marries-morgan-evans-cabo-san-lucas/)

<http://www.accesshollywood.com/articles/kelsea-ballerini-marries-morgan-evans-cabo-san-lucas/>

[Budget Your Trip | Cabo San Lucas](http://www.budgetyourtrip.com/mexico/cabo-san-lucas)

<http://www.budgetyourtrip.com/mexico/cabo-san-lucas>

[CBS MoneyWatch | Online Travel Sites Provide Biased Information?](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/are-expedia-priceline-online-travel-sites-providing-biased-hotel-travel-information/)

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/are-expedia-priceline-online-travel-sites-providing-biased-hotel-travel-information/>

[SAGE Journals | Journal of Travel Research](http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0047287512475217)

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### **CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:**

- **Determine the Extent of Information Needed:** Decide on what kind of information you need to provide a solid foundation for your response.
- **Select the Needed Information:** Figure out which sources have the best and most useful information for your task.
- **Evaluate Information and its Sources Critically:** Make sure that your sources are fact-based, current, and trustworthy.
- **Use Information Effectively to Accomplish a Specific Purpose:** Organize, synthesize, and communicate information to achieve a purpose with clarity and depth.
- **Use Information Ethically and Legally:** Acknowledge the source of information that is used, and use it in a way that correctly represents the information's quality and intent.

### **Compose and save your document (in Word) then upload it to Blackboard.**