

Credibility Clues Answer Key

Step 1 - Claims Made

- Eating two bananas every morning cures headaches.
- Personal stories are enough evidence to prove the claim.
- Anyone who disagrees is "ignoring the truth."

Step 2 - Evidence Used

- **Type of evidence:** Anecdotal (personal experience, friends' stories).
- **Strength:** Weak, because it's not based on scientific studies, expert opinions, or reliable data.

Step 3 - Factors Lowering Credibility

- The author cites only their **personal blog** instead of reputable sources.
- Dismisses scientific proof as unnecessary, which undermines objectivity.
- Relies on personal anecdotes instead of verified data.
- Uses biased language ("anyone who doubts is ignoring the truth").

Step 4 - Credible Rewrite Example

- Original: *"Eating two bananas every morning cures headaches."*
- Credible rewrite: *"A recent medical study published in a nutrition journal found that bananas contain compounds which may help reduce headache symptoms in some people."*

Teacher Guide/Notes

- **Skill Emphasis:** Students practice evaluating the **trustworthiness of sources**, distinguishing between **anecdotal evidence** and **reliable, researched evidence**.
- Encourage discussion: *Can personal experience ever count as reliable evidence?*
- Extension: Provide students with two short articles on the same topic (one credible, one questionable) and have them compare.