

Imagine you have reached a critical point in your life. You just turned 18. You still need a few classes to graduate. Part of you wants to drop out and work full time. Part of you thinks you should take the classes and get your diploma. You are trying to make a very important decision. Before you make a decision, you want to get advice from several people.

Please indicate whether each source would be a reliable source of information. Remember, you are not trying to determine whether or not their advice “right”, just whether or not they are a reliable **source** for information about THIS PROBLEM. Then explain your answer.

Person	Reliable? (yes or no)	Reason
One of your best friends, who is also a few credits short, says “Don’t bother getting your diploma. Let’s both drop out and we can hang out together all day.”		
A teacher you trust says “Look, I understand that it seems like a waste of your time right now; but, if you finish high school, you’ll have more opportunities down the road. I’ve kept track of a lot of my former students, and those who finished school seem a lot happier.”		
A friend who knows a guy whose cousin dropped out says “Finish school. This guy’s cousin is working two crappy jobs right now just to pay rent and buy food.”		
An older friend of yours who owns a business says “Get your diploma. I won’t even consider hiring someone who didn’t finish high school. If someone didn’t finish school, what kind of a worker do you think they’ll be?”		
An older friend of yours who seems to really enjoy their job says “Don’t even think about dropping out. I would never have this job if I hadn’t finished high school. Yes, I had to go to even more school after that; but, I love my job and that’s really important.”		
You’re talking to a clerk at a gas station who says, “School is stupid. Don’t bother.”		

Now go back and give a number to each of the sources. (Add it to the column labeled “reliable”.) You should use the following criteria:

Rank	Criteria used	Explanation
3	A large list of good criteria based on personal experience	This person is an expert and has first hand information. Not only have they had first hand experience; but, they know a lot about the problem (enough to call them an expert) and they’re able to give you several valid reasons for their opinion.
2	A large list of good criteria based on second hand information	This person is using someone else’s experience when giving advice. They are not basing their advice on their own experience. This person probably knows what they are talking about. Even though they don’t have first hand information, they give you valid reasons for their opinion.
1	A short or questionable list of criteria	This person doesn’t tell you <i>where</i> they get their information. They still list reasons for their advice. You don’t really know how good their reasons are because you don’t know where they get their information. This person may or not be giving reliable advice. There is no way to know.
0	No criteria or suspect criteria	This person has an opinion; but, they don’t give you any reasons and they don’t tell you how they “know” what they claim to know. Or, they have reasons: but, they have something to gain by convincing you to decide one way or the other. This person is giving you completely unreliable advice.

Now, you are trying to gather information about different kind of problem. You've heard about something called "power bracelet" that is supposed to make you less tired, think more clearly, and have better athletic performance. You've been saving your money (these bracelets aren't cheap) and finally have enough to buy one. There are, however, some other things you'd like to have so you are questioning whether or not you should spend your money on the bracelet.

Please indicate whether each source would be a reliable source of information. Remember, you are not trying to determine whether or not their advice "right", just whether or not they are a reliable source for information about THIS PROBLEM. Then explain your answer.

Person	Reliable? (yes or no)	Reason
The company's website says "Our products work with your body's energy system, helping to regulate and balance the flow of energy throughout your body."		
An article in Time magazine says "There's no evidence that sports bracelets work. And none that the pros and fans buying them care, either."		
Todd Medina says "I am the "King of Pain" in the World of MMA, so please believe the 7 times World Champion when I say that all of the these products work like no other."		
A sports doctor has done research on the bracelet says "My research indicates that there is no connection between wearing the bracelet and improved sports performance."		
A friend says "I really want to buy one too."		
Your doctor tells you about a patient who bought one. "She said she felt more relaxed. But, I have no idea if it actually works or if she just felt more relaxed because she BELIEVED it would work."		

Now go back and give a number to each of the sources. You should use the same criteria as you did in the previous (whether or not to drop out) example.