How to Analyze a Document: Online News Article

Determine Reliability, Credibility, & Limitations of a Document: When viewing an online news article, be sure to always look at the URL to determine whether it may be a credible source. Many credible sources websites ending in .gov, .edu, and/or .org.

Evaluate the Quality of a Document’s Author/Source: When evaluating a source, be sure that he/she is someone who is unbiased, as well as an expert on the specific topic.

Ask Questions as a Result of Having Limited Information: Many forms of media can give minimal information as an overview for more complex topics. Students should be able to identify that more information is needed and conduct further research.

Background Information: In our case study, students are viewing a variety of documents pertaining to the issue of human-accelerated climate change. They need to take a side on whether or not they think climate change is human-accelerated or whether it is a naturally-occurring cycle. This document gives students insight into how biorenewables and climate change are interrelated.

Iowa State Daily

News Service: Iowa State University

Quick look

The initial work of Iowa State University’s new Bioeconomy Institute will focus on six program areas: corn to biofuels; biorenewable chemicals; thermochemical technologies such as gasification and fast pyrolysis; harvest, storage and transportation of biomass; feedstock production; and biorenewables education.

Quote

“The new Bioeconomy Institute is extremely important to Iowa State, to Iowa and to our nation,” said Iowa State President Gregory Geoffroy. “By developing technologies that depend on agricultural resources instead of imported petroleum, the institute can help improve our national security, transform rural economies and counter global climate change. This institute will also help the state remain a leader in meeting the country’s needs for renewable fuels and products.”

Contacts:
Gregory Geoffroy, President, (515) 294-2042, geoffroy@iastate.edu
Robert C. Brown Bioeconomy Institute, (515) 294-7804

Acknowledgement:
All text and web content © Iowa State University, modified from original format.
We thank the National Science Foundation and Iowa State University’s Center for Biorenewable Chemicals for funding this work (EPSCoR: NSF award ESP - 1101284).