How to Analyze a Document: “Materials and Safety Data Sheet”
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The Document
This document is a MSDS for the bio-based hand soap “Eco Suds,” which summarizes safety information including: product identification, hazardous identification, first aid measures, toxicological information, ecological information and disposal considerations.

Background Information
Materials and Safety Data Sheets are intended to provide information to workers and emergency personnel with procedures for handling and/or working with that substance in a safe manner.

Evaluate the Source
The MSDS is prepared by the supplier or manufacturer of the product. Although the document’s source – “Eco Suds” – sounds reliable, we may want to research it before completely relying on the information.

Make Logical Inferences
The information described here does not directly state that there are no health hazards to be cautious of, but this should be inferred by the reader of the document.

Determine Reliability, Credibility & Limitations
While there are certain aspects of an MSDS that are required by law, not all manufacturers are going to volunteer additional information, therefore limiting what the consumer knows about the product.

Analyzing Data
Ecological information needs to be analyzed to determine how environmentally friendly the product really is.

Determine the Relevance of Information
This piece of information shows that while the product is a cleanser, it may require the use of a cleanser to prevent skin irritation.