LESSON 17
PRACTICE WORKSHEET A
COPYMASTER

Author’s Credibility

A. Directions: From the choices below each topic, select the author who could tell you more about the topic. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Topic: Anthony Burns, an escaped slave from Virginia who was arrested in Boston
   - a. Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa
   - b. Virginia Hamilton, who wrote about African Americans

2. Topic: finding and exploring the Titanic, the ship that sank in 1912
   - a. Joseph Bruchac, who collects Native American myths and stories
   - b. Robert Ballard, an oceanographer who uses underwater robots

3. Topic: living through the Depression, the period of business failures and joblessness in the 1930s
   - a. Russell Baker, who had a hard time earning money for his family when he sold magazines at age seven in 1932
   - b. Bill Bryson, author of A Short History of Nearly Everything, about the physical world

B. Directions: Read both boxed statements. Then use them to answer the questions that follow.

Statement 1: “I know that a bigger variety of produce in my meals means more protection from cancer.”
   [from a newsletter published by the American Institute for Cancer Research, a nonprofit organization. Gentry is the newsletter’s editor.]

Statement 2: “Yet despite the often adamant advice, scientists say they really do not know whether dietary changes will make a difference.”
   [The passage is from an article published in the New York Times in September 2005. Kolata is a science reporter for that newspaper.]

4. Which author has a wider readership? Give evidence to support your decision. __________

5. Which author makes reference to sources with more credibility? Explain your answer. _____

6. Which author gives the least biased view? Explain your answer. ____________________

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