

Criteria For Evaluating Your Sources

Authorship:

- Who is the author?

- What are the author's qualifications?

- For online sources, is there a link to the author's email address to obtain information about the author?

- For online sources, note the domain name in the URL (.gov, .edu, .com, .net, .org, .ca) to assist you in determining possible bias.

- For online sources, is there is an "About Us" link?

 - What does the "About Us" link tell you?

Accuracy:

- For an online source, how many of the statements of fact at this site can you verify at another site or print source?

- Are there obvious errors of grammar, usage, spelling, etc?

- Does the author provide his or her sources?

Objectivity:

- Is any biased language used?

- Does the site/source present both sides of issues?

- Does the site/source exaggerate or promote one side of an issue or cause?

Currency:

- What is the copyright date of the site/source?

- For an online source, when was the site last updated?

- Is the information on the page current?

Content:

- Is the information useful or relevant for your purpose?

- Does the information provide insight and understanding to your research question?

- Would information somewhere else have been different or better?

- Did the information lead you to other sources that were useful?
