

## Evaluating Print & Web Sources: Questions to Ask

Evaluation Criteria	Print Sources (Books, Journals, Magazines, Newspapers)	Websites (Additional Considerations)
<b>Authority—Is the Author or Sponsoring Organization Reputable?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is the author, publisher, or responsible organization?</li> <li>• Are qualifications or credentials of the responsible party stated?</li> <li>• Is the author a specialist in the field?</li> <li>• Has the author won awards or special recognition?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the domain of the Web address? .k12—kindergarten thru high school; .edu—educational; .gov—government; .org—organization; .com—commercial; .net—network; or other</li> <li>• Is this a subscription database for which fees are paid, or free information?</li> <li>• Does the site require passwords or membership to access the information?</li> </ul>
<b>Content—How Complete, Accurate and Relevant is the Content?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are facts and statistics backed by verifiable research or studies?</li> <li>• Is the information relevant to your research topic?</li> <li>• Does the information seem complete, reliable, and accurate?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the information seem reasonable or verifiable?</li> <li>• Does the information mirror or match other information sources, including print?</li> </ul>
<b>Currency—Is the Information Appropriately Current?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When was the information published?</li> <li>• What is the copyright date?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the site maintained and updated frequently?</li> <li>• Is a posting date listed?</li> </ul>
<b>Organization—How is the Content Organized?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a bibliography indicating what research was done?</li> <li>• Does the book include a Table of Contents and Index?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a help feature or way to easily search the site?</li> <li>• Are hyperlinks to additional information included?</li> </ul>
<b>Purpose—What is the underlying purpose for the work?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the author present both sides of the issue or clearly state point of view?</li> <li>• Is the information biased?</li> <li>• Is the information written for professionals, students, or the general population?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a particular idea or belief being promoted?</li> <li>• Is a product being sold?</li> <li>• Is the website sponsored by an organization known for a particular viewpoint?</li> </ul>



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