



# Evaluating Your Sources Checklist

## Author

- Who is the author of the work?
- What do you know about the author? Are credentials provided?
- What else has this author published?
- How long have they been publishing?
- Is this their special subject, or are there others?
- Does s/he publish in journals or magazines or both? Books?
- Does this author's works appear only on Web pages?

## Content

### Currency

- When was the work published?
- Do you need the latest information or historical data?
- Do you know when the information was *created* and/or updated?

### Coverage

- Does the work attempt to be comprehensive or is it selective?
- In the context of the question(s) you are asking, is it primary (original, uninterpreted information) or secondary (interpretive, summary, analytic)?
- Does the work raise questions it doesn't answer?

### Accuracy

- Does the work contain data that needs checking elsewhere?
- Is the source of data used indicated somewhere in the work

### Purpose

- Who is the intended audience for this work?
- Is the work trying to *persuade* or to *inform*?
- Does it use language that is emotional or neutral?
- Does it try to be comprehensive or present only one point-of-view?
- Is it scholarly, intended for an academic or professional audience?
- Is it aimed at the general public?