

Source Evaluation Checklist

Name: _____

Source Title: _____

Source Type: _____

(Print Book, Online Book, Ebook, Print Journal Article, Online Journal Article, Print Magazine Article, Online Magazine Article, Article from Database, Print Newspaper Article, Online Newspaper Article, Web Page, Television, Film or Music, Photograph, Thesis or Dissertation, Abstract, Book Review, Software, Blog Entry/Comment, Online Course/Discussion Board, Personal Letter or Email, Government Publication, Interview)

Credibility

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is information about the author's qualifications, such as education or profession, available on the source or through additional searching?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the source provide a reference list or bibliography showing where the information contained within the source came from?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you find information about whether or not the publisher is reputable?

Relevance and Content

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the subject matter of the source related to your topic?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you able to distinguish between fact and opinion in the source?

Intended Audience

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does this source work well for your audience? For example, if you are writing for a formal, academic audience, is the source a scholarly publication from a journal or a reputable book? If you are writing for the general public, is the source more popular in nature?

Date

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you tell when this source was published or revised?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Based on the date, will the facts and opinions in this source provide you with current information?

Purpose

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the information in this source biased or limited to one point of view?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overall, is this source suitable as a resource for your research purposes?

If you answered "no" to one or more of these questions, you should take a closer look at your source. Getting one "no" does not mean you should not use your source, but it does mean you should really think about the overall quality of your service.

*Checklist adapted from University of Massachusetts "Evaluating Sources Checklist"