

Use the questions in the worksheet below to evaluate your information source (article, website, book, letter, etc.). [Ask a librarian](#) if you need help!

<p>Who? (Authority)</p>	<p>Who wrote this? (If there is more than one author, list the primary author only.) _____</p> <p>Where does the author work? _____</p> <p>Does the author have a master's degree, Ph.D., or other qualifications that contribute to his/her authority? Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>Uncertain</u></p> <p>Has the author been published before? (Try clicking on the author's name in the e-resource, or check in Google.) Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u></p> <p>Do you think this author is an authority on the topic (i.e., s/he has done impartial research on this topic before, and s/he needs to know about this topic as part of his/her job), or would you need to do more research to find out? Circle one:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>S/he is an authority</u> <u>S/he is NOT an authority</u> <u>I need more information to determine the author's authority</u></p>
<p>What? (Relevance & Quality)</p>	<p>What is this document? Circle one: <u>Magazine article</u> <u>Newspaper article</u> <u>Scholarly journal article</u> <u>Editorial</u> <u>Book review</u> <u>Book</u> <u>Uncertain</u></p> <p>Is the information factual and objective, or is it opinion-based and lacks data to support the claim? Circle one: <u>Fact</u> <u>Opinion</u> <u>Both</u></p> <p>Is the information balanced? In other words, is more than one viewpoint or explanation offered? Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u></p> <p>Does the author cite the sources where s/he found information? Circle one: <u>Sources are cited</u> <u>Sources are NOT cited</u></p> <p>Is this document relevant to your topic AND well-researched? Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u></p>
<p>When? (Currency)</p>	<p>When was the information published or copyrighted? _____ If there was a survey or experiment, when was the research done? _____</p> <p>Is the information current, or is currency not important for your topic? Circle one: <u>Current</u> <u>Not Current</u> <u>Currency doesn't matter for this topic</u></p>
<p>Where? (Reliability)</p>	<p>Can you reach the author for comments or questions at a specific business address or email address? Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u></p> <p>Where was the research conducted? _____ Is it geographically relevant to your topic? Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u></p> <p>Where was the document published? Give the name of the newspaper, magazine, journal, etc.: _____</p> <p>If the document is a website, what is its domain, or how does the first part of the URL/address end? Circle one: <u>.com</u> <u>.edu</u> <u>.org</u> <u>.gov</u> <u>Other</u></p> <p>What is the publisher's main purpose? The publisher is a... (Circle one):</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>University press</u> <u>Commercial publisher</u> <u>An association or nonprofit organization</u> <u>Government office or agency</u> <u>Other/Uncertain</u></p>

<p>Why? (Purpose)</p>	<p>Why did the author write this? What was his/her main purpose in writing? Circle one: <u>To inform and teach</u> <u>To convince and persuade</u> <u>To entertain</u> <u>To sell something</u> Other (explain): _____</p>
<p>How? (Accuracy)</p>	<p>How is the document written? Is it written in an informal style, or is there specialized vocabulary/jargon? <u>Common language</u> <u>Jargon</u> How was the information gathered or the research completed? Circle all that apply: <u>An experiment</u> <u>A survey</u> <u>Interviews</u> <u>Data and statistical analysis</u> <u>A literature review</u> <u>The research methods aren't listed</u> If the document includes a survey or data, does the author state that the findings are "statistically significant?" Circle one: <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>No data</u> Do you think the information was collected and analyzed accurately? <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>I would need to do more research to determine accuracy</u></p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Based on your evaluations above, would you cite this in a college-level research paper? Why or why not? _____ _____</p>