

Evaluating Sources Checklist

With so much information readily available, it has never been easier to learn about almost any topic you can think of. But in order to be a responsible consumer of information, it is important to check whether the source you are using is trustworthy and credible.

Use this checklist as you research a topic to help you evaluate the information and its source.



Relevance:

- Is this information important and related to my research question?
- Does the author stay on topic and present information in a factual and informative manner?
- Was the information updated recently?

Accuracy:

- Are the facts up-to-date and able to be verified by consulting other sources?
- Does the text link or refer to other credible sources?
- Do other credible sources link or refer to this source?
- Did the author cite their sources somewhere that is easily accessible?

Bias:

- Is the information presented in a way that is unbiased and/or shows both sides of an issue?
- Does this source avoid presenting opinions as facts?

Reliability:

- Can you easily identify the individual or group who wrote or published this information?
- Is the person or group responsible for this information generally trustworthy?
- Does this information come from a site with a .edu or .gov ending?
- Is the content well-written and free of typos and grammatical errors?

Note: Evaluating sources is a complex skill. There will be some high-quality, credible sources that don't check all of these boxes. That's okay! On the other hand, there may be some less-credible sources that check many of these boxes. Use your best judgement, and always seek out multiple sources for information.