

SOURCE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Source Title (print or website):

Article or Page Title (if from a website):

Authority	
<i>Tip: To help determine the author's expertise, look for background, credentials, other works, etc. On a website, look for links like "About Us," "FAQ," or "Background."</i>	
Is it clear who the author is?	Y / N
Has the author provided contact information, such as a name, email, phone number, or address?	Y / N
If there is no personal author, is an editor, publisher, or institution provided, along with contact information?	Y / N
Does the individual or organization list their qualifications or credentials?	Y / N
Accuracy	
<i>Tip: Anyone can publish anything on the Internet. Be sure your source's information is accurate and verifiable.</i>	
Based on the reading you have already done on the subject, does the information on the site seem accurate?	Y / N
Is factual information referenced in footnotes or a Works Cited?	Y / N
Are there grammar and spelling mistakes?	Y / N
If online, are there are links to other pages, and are they reliable sources? (Skip if not applicable.)	Y / N
Timeliness	
<i>Tip: Keep in mind that information like statistics may be incorrect if out of date. Finding a date of publication is important to verify accuracy.</i>	
Is there a date that shows when the source was published or last updated?	Y / N
If online, does the source contain minimal "broken" links? (Skip if not applicable.)	Y / N

Objectivity

Tip: Look for sources that present information with minimal bias. Determine the author's or publisher's intent to verify objectivity. Objective sources aim to inform, not to persuade.

Does the source avoid advertising that may be a conflict of interest with the content?	Y / N
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If a debatable issue is covered, are both sides presented?	Y / N
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Do you trust the author or organization that created the resource?	Y / N
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Purpose

Tip: Is the source's intended audience scholarly, or not? If the source is a website, use the URL to help determine its purpose.

Is the information in the source relevant to your needs?	Y / N
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Does the source avoid persuading its audience or selling a product?	Y / N
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If a website, does the source have an .edu or .gov ending in its URL? (Skip if not applicable.)	Y / N
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Assess the reliability of this source and summarize evidence supporting your claim.
