

SOURCE EVALUATION TOOL

Use the questions in the worksheet below to evaluate your information source (article, website, book, letter, etc.).

<p>WHO? (Authority)</p>	<p>Who wrote this? (If there is more than one author, list the primary author only.) _____ Where does the author work? _____ Does the author have a master's degree, Ph.D., or other qualifications that contribute to his/her authority? Circle one: Yes No Uncertain Has the author been published before? (Try clicking on the author's name in the e-resource, or check in Google.) Circle one: Yes No 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: S/he is an authority S/he is NOT an authority More of information needed</p>
<p>WHAT? (Relevance & Quality)</p>	<p>What is this document? Circle one: Magazine Newspaper Scholarly Journal Book Other Is the information factual and objective, or is it opinion-based and lacks data to support the claim? Circle one: Fact Opinion Both Is the information balanced? In other words, is more than one viewpoint or explanation offered? Circle one: Yes No Does the author cite the sources where s/he found information? Circle one: Sources are cited Sources are NOT cited Is this document relevant to your topic AND well-researched? Circle one: Yes No</p>
<p>WHEN? (Current)</p>	<p>When was the information published or copyrighted? _____ If there was a survey or experiment, when was the research done? _____ Is the information current, or is currency not important for your topic? Circle one: Current Not Current Currency doesn't matter for this topic</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: Yes No Where was the research conducted? _____ Is it geographically relevant to your topic? Circle one: Yes No Where was the document published? Give the name of the newspaper, magazine, journal, etc.: _____ If the document is a website, what is its domain, or how does the first part of the URL/address end? Circle one: .com .edu .org .gov Other What is the publisher's main purpose? The publisher is a... Circle one: University Commercial An association or nonprofit organization Government office or agency Other/Uncertain</p>

