

Evaluating Sources

Print materials

- Who is the author and what are their credentials?
 - ✓ If you can't find this information in the book or article, Google the author and see if they have a webpage.
- Who is the publisher? Was it published by a company, university or the author? Books published by publishing companies and university presses are subject to an editorial process which self-published works do not undergo.
- What is the publication date? Does the age of this information fall within your targeted date range?
- Does the author provide citations? Citations may be in the form of endnotes, footnotes or a bibliography. If there are citations, does the author use a wide variety of sources?

Websites

- Is there an author listed? If so, what are their credentials?
- Who runs the website? Is it an organization or government agency?
- Is there any way to verify the accuracy of the information?
- Can you find when the information or website was last updated? Check any links. If you find a lot of dead links, chances are the site has not been updated in a while.
- What is the purpose of the website? Does it attempt to present a balanced examination of the issue or does it show bias?