Source Evaluation checklist

# Source Title (print or website):

# Article or Page Title (if from a website):

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| Authority | |
| 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.” | |
| 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 | |
| Tip: Anyone can publish anything on the Internet. Be sure your source’s information is accurate and verifiable. | |
| 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 | |
| Tip: Keep in mind that information like statistics may be incorrect if out of date.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. | |
| 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 |
| If a debatable issue is covered, are both sides presented? | Y / N |
| Do you trust the author or organization that created the resource? | Y / N |
| 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 |
| Does the source avoid persuading its audience or selling a product? | Y / N |
| If a website, does the source have an .edu or .gov ending in its URL? (Skip if not applicable.) | Y / N |

**Assess the reliability of this source and summarize evidence supporting your claim.**

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