

Evaluation Criteria for Information & Information Sources

I. Authority

- a. Who is the author?
- b. What are his/her credentials?
- c. Is the author considered an expert or specialist?
- d. What institutional or organizational affiliations does he/she have?
- e. What is his/her reputation?

II. Content

- i. Is the purpose to educate, persuade, entertain, or sell?
- ii. Is the information general or specific?
- iii. Is the information current or historical?
- iv. Is there a bias or specific perspective being expressed?
- b. Intended Audience
 - i. Who is the intended audience? general public? students? teachers and faculty?
- c. Level of information
 - i. Is the language used and level of information used appropriate for the intended audience?

III. Accuracy

- a. Is the information factual?
- b. Is the information error-free?
- c. Is there misrepresentation?
- d. Is the information based on valid research (i.e., empirical evidence)?
- e. Are references included for verification?

IV. Relevance

- a. Is the format of the source appropriate for conveying the information?
- b. Is the format of the source appropriate for your uses?
- c. Is it a primary, secondary, or tertiary source?

V. Currency

- a. When was the source created or published?
- b. Has the information been updated or revised? If a webpage, when was it last updated?
- c. Is the topic time-sensitive or evolving?
- d. Is this information in line with or contradictory to current perspectives?

VI. Is this source appropriate for your question?

- a. Answers to the questions above should guide you.

Be Informed!

Criteria	Source 1	Source 2	Source 3
<p>Authority Who is the author(s)? What are his/her credentials? Is he/she considered an expert or specialist? What is his/her institutional or organizational affiliation? What is his/her reputation?</p>			
<p>Content Is the purpose to educate, persuade, entertain, or sell? Is the information general or specific? Is the information current or historical? Is there a bias (specific perspective) being expressed?</p> <p>Intended Audience Who is the intended audience? Adults or children? Patients or their families? Students? Educators? Healthcare professionals? Men or women?</p> <p>Reading level Is the language used appropriate? Is the amount of detail provided too much or too little? Is the language appropriate for the intended audience?</p>			
<p>Accuracy Is the information based on facts/data? Is the information free of error? Is there misrepresentation of facts/data? Are references cited for verification?</p>			
<p>Relevance Is the format helpful in getting the message across? Is the format effective for you? Is the information coming from a primary, secondary, or tertiary source?</p>			
<p>Currency When was the source created, published, or last updated? Has the information been updated or revised in the past year? 3 months? Is the topic time-sensitive? Does the information or message go along with or contradict current perspectives or theories?</p>			
<p>Is the source appropriate for your question(s)? <i>Use your answers to the questions above to decide.</i></p>			