



Evaluating Sources Quick Guide

You should ask yourself the following questions when deciding whether to use a particular source:

1. What are the author's credentials?
2. What is the purpose of the source?
3. What is the scope of the source?
4. Who published the source?
5. How current is the source?

Credentials

- What are the author's credentials / affiliation?
- Has the author written anything else on the topic?

Purpose

- Why was the source written?
- For whom is the source intended?

Scope

- What does the source cover?
- What is the depth of the coverage?

Publisher

- Who published the source?
- Is the publisher objective?

Currency

- When was it published?
- Is it the most up-to-date information available?



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- www.ccms.edu > Student Resources >> Research & Writing
- See *Evaluating Sources In-Depth Guide*

Adapted from "Questions to Ask About All Sources" by the Harvard College Writing Program
<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page346373>