Tips on How to Evaluate Information Sources

Use the following questions as a guide to evaluate the sources you locate.

1. **Is the material relevant to the topic being explored?**
2. **Is the language or vocabulary at an appropriate level?**
3. **Is the material popular or scholarly? Which best suits your research needs?**
4. **Is the date of publication appropriate to the topic?**
5. **What are the author's qualifications (if given)?**
6. **Did the author use primary or secondary sources?**
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What is the author's purpose? To inform? To persuade?

Is there bias in the material, or is the author objective? Does the author consider more than one point of view?

Are the author's conclusions supported? How?

Is there a bibliography? If so, how many entries are included?

Would this source be useful as initial background information?

Or as a major point? As a conclusion?