

Evaluating Resources

(S.T.A.R.T.)

Scope (Coverage, Audience)

Does the content reflect the author's knowledge of the subject matter?

Does the work agree with your own knowledge?

Is it informational, factual, and credible, or does it promote a product or service?

Who is the intended audience?

Treatment (Accuracy, Objectivity)

Is the information accurate and verifiable?

Is the information objective or is it biased?

Is there grammatical or spelling errors?

Is the language neutral, persuasive, or inflammatory?

Are the sources listed so the reader can verify information?

Authority

Can the author or source of information be identified?

Is there contact information?

What are the author's credentials?

- 🐾 Relevant university degree
- 🐾 Institutional affiliation
- 🐾 Relevant field or employment experience
- 🐾 Past writings on same subject

Is the author associated with a reputable institution or organization?

- 🐾 Organization mission
- 🐾 Basic values or goals
- 🐾 National or international membership

Who is the publisher? (Commercial, trade, institutional, other)

- 🐾 Known for quality and/or scholarly publications
- 🐾 Basic values or goals
- 🐾 Specialization
- 🐾 Editorial board

What does the URL reveal about the source of information?

- 🐾 .gov
- 🐾 .edu
- 🐾 .com

Relevance (Focus, Suitability)

Does the work address your research question or topic?

Is the content appropriate for your research topic or assignment?

- 🐾 Scholarly vs. popular
- 🐾 Fact vs. opinion
- 🐾 Format/medium
- 🐾 Subject coverage
- 🐾 Language
- 🐾 Time period
- 🐾 Geographical area
- 🐾 Audience
- 🐾 Primary vs. secondary

Does it support or contradict your point of view?

Can the information be verified by another source?

Does it provide evidence or support your ideas?

Is the work at the level of scholarship you require?

Timeliness (Currency)

Is the information still useful regardless of the date of publication?

When was content produced, published, and updated?

Is your topic one that requires current information?

Is the information up to date?

If links are included, do they still work?

Has this source been revised, updated, or expanded in a later edition?