

EVALUATION BASICS

HOW GOOD ARE THE SOURCES I HAVE CHOSEN?

I. AUTHOR

What are the author's credentials--educational background, past writings, or experience in this area? Have you seen the author's name cited in other sources or bibliographies?

II. YEAR OF PUBLICATION

When was the source published? Is the source current or out-of-date for your topic?

III. EDITION

Is this a first edition? Have there been revisions?

IV. PUBLISHER

Note the publisher. If the source is published by a university press, it is likely to be scholarly. Although the fact that the publisher is reputable does not necessarily guarantee quality, it does show that the publisher may have high regard for the source being published.

V. TITLE OF JOURNAL

Is this a scholarly or popular journal?

OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK?

- ⇒ **What type of audience is the author addressing?**
- ⇒ **Is this source too elementary, too technical, too advanced, or just right for my needs?**
- ⇒ **Is the information presented fact or opinion?**
- ⇒ **Does the information appear to be valid and well-researched, or is it questionable and unsupported by evidence?**
- ⇒ **Does the material update other sources, substantiate other materials you have read, or add new information?**

YOU SHOULD EXPLORE ENOUGH SOURCES TO OBTAIN A VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS.