Evaluating Sources

How can you tell if a source is reliable? This worksheet will guide you through questions to consider. If you’re ever in doubt about a source, remember you can always contact your friendly librarian for help!

AUTHOR

Who is the author? What makes them an authority to speak on this topic?

*Hint:* authority can come from an author’s educational background, their job, societal position, or relevant personal experience.

PUBLICATION

What is the publication? Check the publication’s website to see if they have an “about” page describing their mission and editorial process.

*Hint:* If they don’t have that information on their website, see if they have a Wikipedia page or if other publications have written about them.

TYPE OF SOURCE

What type of source is this? Is it a scholarly source, popular source, a government report, or something else? How do you know?

*Hint:* consider what type of editing or review process the source had to go through before it could be published
WARNING SIGNS

What are some signs that a source is not reliable?

IS THIS RELIABLE?

Is this source credible/reliable? Why or why not? To determine this, consider the author, publication, whether the source uses citations or other means to refer to other sources, and whether the source is fair/objective.