EVALUATING SOURCES
We look at many texts each day to fulfill our information needs. But how do we know the information is valid and reliable? What questions should we ask ourselves when evaluating what is being read?

Authority
Who authored the information?
Is the person or group an authority on the subject? How do you know?
Is there contact information available?
Are there references or citations listed?
Can you easily identify the authority information?

Purpose
What is the purpose? Can you tell?
Does its purpose affect the content?

Bias
What is the author’s/publication’s bias (political, cultural, religious, ethnic, social, etc.)?
Is it obvious or hidden?
How does the bias effect the information?

Currency
How up-to-date is the information?
How important is it that the information is current?
Is out-dated information cited?

Coverage/Scope
Who is the audience?
Does the site cover a specific period of time or geographical area?
Is the information abridged from another source? If so, who abridged it and why?

For Websites only
Purpose
The URL is the first place to look to determine if the website is
- commercial (.com)
- organizational (.org)
- governmental (.gov)
- educational (.edu)
- internet provider (.net)
- military (.mil)
- foreign country (ex. .uk)
- personal website (~ appears before name)

Accessibility
Can you easily load the page?
Can you move around the site easily?
Do you have to register to have access?
Are there options for people with disabilities?