Evaluating Information with

Authority

Who is the author or what is the name of the group who wrote this?

What is this person’s degree or the group’s qualifications?

Do you think this is the best type of qualification for writing about this topic? Why or why not?

Most sources have some bias. What is the source’s main purpose? (Circle one: to inform, to persuade, to entertain, to sell something)? Other:

Who might have a different opinion from this source?

(It’s ok to have different opinions. Scientists, politicians, and people from many professions have different opinions or may make hypotheses, and answers may differ.)

Describe the opinion or bias of this source?

Bias

Under what keyword(s) did you locate your topic?

What are some synonyms, narrower, or broader terms you could use in future searches?

What dates are related to this topic?

What people are related to this topic?

What events are related to this topic?

What places are related to this topic?

What information about the topic might have been left out of this source?

Coverage

Date

What is the date of the information?

Do you think this date is recent enough for this topic? Why or why not?

If the source is about a historical topic, is it a Primary source or a Secondary source? (Circle one). [A Primary source is a first-hand account, from the original time period of the event, such as a diary written by a person involved in the event. A Secondary source is written sometime after the event took place.]