

EVALUATING SOURCES

- 1. Authority of the author** – Who wrote the document and what credentials – educational or professional - make them an authority? Have they written other material on the topic? Have other authors have cited their work? (A quick way to figure this out is to search one of the article or book titles in Google Scholar and checking the 'cited by' link.)
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- 3. Purpose** – Why was the document written and who is the intended audience? Is the intended purpose of the document to persuade you in one way or another, to report out on a study they did? Is the item geared towards the general public or academics/researchers? How well does the purpose of the document suit your research?
- 4. Content** – How well does the resource address your topic? Are all sides of the issue represented? If it only addresses part of your topic, what additional material do you need?
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