

How to Evaluate Your Sources: Video Transcript

Available on the [Library website](#)

Welcome to the video on How to Evaluate Your Sources. By the end of this video you will be able to explain the purpose of evaluating information in academic research and what questions to consider when evaluating resources to choose the best information for your topic.

The purpose of evaluating resources is to ensure that you have the high quality sources you need to help you achieve success on your assignments and course work. Some of the library resources you can use for your research include books, journal articles or websites.

Since not everything you find in the library will be scholarly consider the following: Authority. Who wrote or created the source? Who is the author or editor of the source? What are their credentials, training or experience in the field such as working or teaching? Who published the source? Was it a University Press like Oxford University? Or was it a popular press that publishes magazines and non-scholarly information such as People magazine? Accuracy. How good is the information in the source? Ask yourself: Does the information match up with your understanding of the topic? Is it peer-reviewed or has it gone through some sort of editorial process? Can the information be verified with other sources? Is there a section for works cited, references or a bibliography? Currency. When was the information produced, updated or revised? Also consider how important recent information is to your topic. Purpose. Why has the author produced or created the information? Was it created to educate? Was it created to present an opinion? Was it created to sell you something? Or was it created for entertainment? Relevance. How well does the source meet your need for information? Ask yourself: How does it relate to your research question and other research on the topic that you have read? What does it add or bring to the discussion?

Try to keep these five points in mind when you are considering any source for your research. Need more help? Check out our reference services in person, by phone, by email or chat at any of our Lakehead University Libraries and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).