# Evaluating Websites

## Author Credentials
- Who is the author/publisher/sponsor?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- What credentials are given?
- What does the URL reveal about the source (.org, .edu, .gov)?

## Reliability
- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- What is the tone? Is it biased?
- Are there grammatical or spelling errors?

## Purpose of Use
- What is the purpose of the information: to teach, to sell, to entertain?
- Is the information, fact, opinion, or propaganda?
- How does the author make clear his or her intentions?
- Is the point of view clear and impartial?

## Currency
- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the site been revised recently?
- Does your topic require more recent information?
- Are the links functional?

## Relevance
- How does the information relate to your topic?
- How does it answer your question(s)?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is the information written at an appropriate level?
- Can this be used on your Reference page?

### Additional questions to ask:
- Does the article include Works Cited or a Reference page? Is it part of a larger conversation?
- Does the article appear on a well-known, professionally-respected site? Is the publication peer reviewed or vetted by an academic institution?
- Does the information come from a government agency? Is the information up to date and verifiable?