



## Evaluation & Citation

Evaluate all information carefully. Web sites present additional challenges. Use the evaluation criteria below to determine the quality of information sources.

- Purpose** What is the source trying to do: entertain? persuade? sell? inform?
- Authority** Who's responsible for the information? author? publisher?
- Accuracy** Is the information correct? true? How does it compare with others?
- Objectivity** Is it inherently biased? Are there other sides to the story?
- Currency** Is the information up-to-date? timely?
- Coverage** How much detail is included? What's excluded?

A good researcher uses a standard citation format to identify the information used and give credit to its creator. Consistency is crucial. Find examples of MLA, Chicago, APA, and AAA formats at the library's [Citation Style Guides](#) web page.

Last updated: Oct. 2007