Evaluating Sources

- **Publisher**: Who published or sponsored this work? Are they reputable?
- **Accuracy**: Can the information be verified in other reputable sources?
- **Credentials**: Who is the author (authors)? Are their qualifications or degrees listed?
- **Currency**: Is the information’s publishing date current? Are the links within the website current? If they no longer work then the website might be too old.
- **Bias**: Does the author or publisher express an opinion or is the information based on fact?
- **Audience**: Who is the intended audience? Who is the information written for? Is the audience focus appropriate for your research paper?

**Checking for Bias:**
- Does the author endorse political or religious views that could affect the objectivity of the source?
- Is the author presenting a one-sided argument?
- Are the sources being misquoted?
- Is the author only picking facts that support his/her data and leaving out other information?
- Does the author distort or stretch facts?

**Website Evaluation:**
- **Mission/purpose statement**: reveals the purpose of the website and its point of view.
- **Credentials**: a reputable organization or an expert author
- **Date of last revision**: this reveals how recently the content of the website has been reviewed and revised
- Contact information: a physical address and telephone number the researcher can use to contact a real person with questions
- **Loaded language**: words that have emotional value which can be used to manipulate attitude.
- **Links**: do other reputable websites link to this website and does it link to other reputable sites.