Evaluating Websites and Other Sources

Authority
• Who wrote this? Who published this?
• What do I know about them? (name, credentials, education, other publications)
• Do they have expertise or experience with this topic?

Currency
• When was this published? Last updated?
• Is there a copyright date on the website?
• Do I need current news or recently updated information on this topic?

Relevance
• How does this information relate to my research topic?
• Will this help me answer my questions?

Accuracy
• Where did the author get their information?
• Do they cite their sources? (Bibliography, Works Cited, Further Reading)
• If they link to other websites, do those also seem like reliable sources?
• Does this information match up with information from my other sources?

Bias
• What is the purpose of this website?
• Are they trying to persuade me to believe a particular point of view?
• Are they trying to sell me something?