

# The A.S.P.E.C.T. Checklist for Evaluating Information

Make sure the books, articles, or websites, you use are credible, or trustworthy, by examining every A.S.P.E.C.T. You don't have to answer all the questions listed, but look at enough to give the source your stamp of approval.

<b>A: Authority</b>	Is there an author's name? Can you locate the author's credentials? Does the author have expertise in the subject? Has the author written similar works? Is anyone else recommending this author? What are the publisher's credentials and reputation? Does the publisher produce similar works?
<b>S: Sources</b>	Is the information presented as fact? If so: Does the author provide documentation/sources? (Bibliography, Footnotes, etc.) If sources are included, as <i>they</i> credible sources?
<b>P: Purpose</b>	Was this source written to inform, educate, entertain, or sell? Does the source argue a perspective or specific opinion? Is the content aimed at a general audience, or is it written for readers with expertise in the subject? Is the source too basic, too technical, or too advanced for your needs? Is the source just right for your research needs?
<b>E: Evenness</b>	Does the author recognize other points of view? Is the information presented objective? If the source is biased, does the author acknowledge the bias?
<b>C: Coverage</b>	Is the information up to date? Does the source support what you have found in other sources? Is the source comprehensive or inclusive enough for your needs? Does this source provide information that is relevant to your needs?
<b>T: Timeliness</b>	When was the source published? Is the date appropriate for your topic?