Questions to Ask Yourself

When judging information in encyclopedias

Is the topic covered in depth? _____________________________
Are the author's credentials listed? _____________________________
How long ago was the entry written? _____________________________

When judging information in books

Does the book focus on my topic? _____________________________
Is the author an expert on my topic? _____________________________
How long ago was the book written? _____________________________

When judging information from magazines

Was the article written to inform or to entertain? _____________________________
Does the article contain facts that I can use in my report? _____________________________
Are any other useful sources cited in the article? _____________________________

When judging information from newspapers

Is the topic covered in depth? _____________________________
Are sources cited for the facts presented in the article? _____________________________
Did the newspaper publish any more stories about this topic? _____________________________

When judging information on the World Wide Web

Was this website designed to inform or entertain? _____________________________
What is the source of the information? _____________________________
Is the source reliable? _____________________________
Is the website updated regularly? _____________________________