

## Source Credibility Checklist

### Authority and Accuracy

Write down any relevant bibliographic information. Some items of particular importance are author/creator, date, publisher (newspaper, magazine, etc).

Based on the bibliographic information (especially author/creator and publisher), what biases might be present in the source?

Does the source support its claims with any references?

Are there related sources that corroborate (or contradict this source)? In what way? How does this change your opinion of the source?

Whose perspective is *not* represented in the source? Whose voice are we not hearing? Why is this important?

### Currency

Is the source primary or secondary? Is this important to your particular project/area of interest?

How do you think this source was received when it was created? What information have we learned about your topic since this source was created, and how does that change our modern-day reaction to the source?

Purpose
Who was the intended audience for this source? What does this tell you about the source?
Was the source intended to convey information or opinion? How do you know?

1. Do you consider this source a credible source of information about your topic or not?
2. Which of the factors in the checklist were most important in making your decision?
3. Does a source being non-credible disqualify it from use in the classroom or in a research project? Why or why not? What are some ways in which a non-credible source might be valuable?