Evaluate a Source with the 5Ws

# WHO?

* Who is the author, what are their credentials for the topic?
* Is the author an expert on the topic? What is the author's affiliation?
* If an organization authored the document, are they an academic institution or a business?

# 

# WHERE?

* Where is the source published?
* Is it a reputable publisher?
* Is it self-published?
* Is it a website or an academic publisher?
* Is it a blog or a national news website?

# WHAT?

* What is it about?
* Is it accurate?
* What type of source is it?
* Is it a popular or academic source?
* Is it a primary or secondary source?

# WHY?

* Why was the source published?
* Is it to inform you, entertain you, persuade you?
* Is it to report original research?
* Does it represent an agenda?

# WHEN?

* When was it published?
* If it's older, is that appropriate for your research? Is a historical perspective important in your research?
* Or is your research dependent on the most current data and information?