**Currency:** *The timeliness of the information.*
- When was the information published or posted?
- Are all of the links functional?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Does your topic require current information or will older sources work as well?

**Relevance:** *The importance of the information for your needs.*
- What kind of information is included in the website?
- Based on other research, is this information accurate and complete?
- Is the content fact-based or opinion-based?
- Is the information balanced or biased?
- Does the author provide references for quotations and data?

**Authority:** *The Source of the information.*
- Can you determine who the author/creator/source is?
- Is there a way to contact them?
- What are their credentials (education, affiliation, experience, etc.)?
- Is the author qualified to write on the topic?
- Who is the publisher or sponsor of the site?
- Is this publisher/sponsor reputable?
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source (i.e. .com, .edu, .gov, etc.)?

**Accuracy:** *The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.*
- Where does the information come from?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?
- Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

**Purpose:** *The reason the information exists.*
- What is the purpose of the information (i.e. inform, sell, teach, entertain, persuade)?
- What is the domain (.edu, .org, .com, etc.)?
- Are there ads on the website?
- Is the author presenting fact or opinion?
- Who might benefit from a reader believing this website?
- Based on the writing style, who is the intended audience?

**Skew:** *Recognizing one’s own cognitive bias.*
- Is the topic controversial?
- Do you have strong feelings about this topic?
- Do you either strongly agree or strongly disagree with the conclusions?
- Is your personal opinion coloring your interpretation of the content?