EVALUATING WEB PAGES

AUTHORITY

- Who wrote the page?
  Look for the author’s name, a copyright credit (©), contact information or link to an organization.
  Look for biographical information or the author’s affiliations (university department, organization, corporate title, etc.).
  Can these be verified?
  Has the author published books or journal articles?

- Whose web site is this?
  Look at the domain (.com, .edu, .org, .gov etc.).
  Look for an "about this site" link.
  Be careful of a web page that has a tilde (~) in the URL, as this usually identifies a personal directory on a web site.

CURRENCY

- Is the information up-to-date?
  Is there a date at the top or bottom of the page?
  Don’t confuse currency of content with last update of the page.
  Compare the information on the web page to information available through other sources.
  Broken links are one measure of an out-of-date page.
OBJECTIVITY

- Is the author being objective or biased?

  Biased information is not necessarily "bad", but take the bias into account when interpreting or using the information given.

  Are the facts accurately and completely cited?

  Is the author fair, balanced, and moderate in his/her views, or is the author overly emotional or extreme?

Would you use these websites as sources for your research?

American Memory
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

Wikipedia – History of US Foreign Policy

American Foreign Policy Pre-1900
http://www.mindbites.com/lesson/4456-americangovernment-foreign-policy-pre-1900