

## Guidelines for Determining Validity of a Resource

### 1. Publication Date

- Reliable secondary resources should have been published within the last three to five years
- Reliable primary sources depend on the topic and nature of the resource (e.g., Letters from Abigail Adams to President John Adams were written more than 200 years ago and published more than 20 years ago, but they are a valid source of information.)

### 2. Coverage

- Make sure the resource is talking about the same topic as you are researching

### 3. Language

- Is the language used to discuss main ideas and details objective?
- Is it subjective?
- Is it understandable or are there lots of technical terms that you don't understand?

### 4. Propaganda Techniques

- Does the author try to persuade you about something without using facts to support his or her argument?

### 5. Point of View

- Is the resource factual or does the author use lots of opinions?
- If opinions are used, does the author have the credentials and experiences that allow him or her to express opinions that should be considered by others?

### 6. Type of Resource

- Primary or secondary