Evaluating Information by Gillian Siddall[Video Transcript]

This is a short video highlighting the questions you need to think about when evaluating information.

Start by thinking about these questions:

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why? And

How?

## Who produced the information and who is their intended audience?

This will help you to determine their expertise and whether they are writing for an educated audience or the general public.

## What are they saying?

Read the information critically to find out what the purpose of the source is. Is it relevant to your topic or assignment? Can you see any bias in what they are saying?

## Where is it from?

Is it from a suitable source? You may need to use academic sources in your work, for example peer reviewed journal articles that have been reviewed by subject experts. You may also need to know what country the information is from to assess if it is relevant for your work.

## When was it created?

You need to think about the currency of the information you are looking at. If you need up to date policy and guidelines you may need to have a specific time frame in mind. Equally, if you are looking at something historical, you may want a primary source that was written at the time of the event, for example the First World War.

## Why did they do it?

Can you identify the purpose behind the information, is it to share and update current knowledge or can you detect if the author has a specific agenda or bias?

## How did they do it?

If it is an academic source it should contain references and citations that demonstrate the sources they have used to build their arguments. If it is a research paper, it should clearly explain how they did their research so you can begin to assess if their research methods were appropriate.

Remember, when you're beginning to evaluate the quality of the source think about:

Who produced it and who is their audience?

What are they saying?

Where is it from?

When was it created?

Why did they do it? And

How did they do it?