Ask yourself the following questions in order to determine the reliability of a source:

**WHO IS THE AUTHOR?**
- What makes the author(s) qualified to write about the topic?
- If the author is an organization, do the members have relevant credentials? What is the organization’s mission?

**WHAT IS THE CONTENT?**
- Does the article appear to be well researched?
- If any claims are made, are they supported by evidence?
- Are sources cited?
- Is the information in the article current?

**WHY WAS THE ARTICLE WRITTEN?**
- What was the author’s purpose in writing the article? What was his/her goal?
- Does the author only want to give his/her opinion on the topic?

**THE QUICKLIST**
Here are some "giveaways" that you need to check your source:
* The web address contains words unrelated to what you’re studying.
* The site is an "answer engine" (i.e. Answers.com).
* Your source is a blog or a Wiki.
* The source contains inflammatory language.
* The source hasn’t been updated in the last six months.
* The source contains spelling/grammar errors.
* The source has excessive ads, popups, subscriptions, or charges you for information.

**A NOTE ON WIKIPEDIA**
Wikipedia is a great starting place for research and to gain background information on a topic. Use the sources at the bottom of the article for find more reliable information on your topic.
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* ADAPTED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA