THINGS TO LOOK FOR WHEN EVALUATING THE VALIDITY OF A RESOURCE

1. The Author
   a. Stay away from sources that **do not list an author**.
   b. If there is an author listed **it does not mean they are credible**. Look for education credentials, their occupation and years in that field, if they have been published in scholarly journals.
2. The URL

By looking at the URL that can help determine if the source is reliable.

   a. .edu-is for educational institutions. They are reliable
      i. Example- http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/home.html
   b. .gov is for government websites.   They are reliable.
      i. Examples- http://www.fda.gov/ http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB260/index.htm

   c. .org is for non-profit organizations They can be very good sources or very poor sources, so you'll have to take care to research their possible agendas or political biases, if they exist.
      i. Examples- http://www.ebookslib.org/ http://www.teapartypatriots.org/

 d. .net is a network. They can be very good sources or very poor sources, so you'll have to take care to research their possible agendas or political biases, if they exist.
  i. Example- http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/Rockoff.WWI
 e. .com is commercial and anyone can purchase a .com site and put information on it. You need to check to make sure the author is credible.
  i. http://robbwolf.com/about/

3. Online Journals, Magazines, encyclopedias
 a. Reportable journals, magazines, and encyclopedias are reliable resources
 b. A good way to check to see if it is not reliable is in the bibliography. If there are not that many sources or the sources don't seem creditable the article may not be reliable.
  i. Proquest
  ii. Seattle Times

4. News and media
 a. Most are trustworthy.
 b. If you watch a show on the History Channel on WWI and learn some valuable information you can use it in your project. You will have to cite that source but it is available.
  i. Example- http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/post-world-war-i-peace-conference-begins-in-paris

5. Blogs

a. Be careful of blogs. Check to see the author is creditable and the information is useful.
    i. Example- http://bloggingcat.blogspot.com/