Evaluation should always be a key step throughout your research. 
**Whatever you read, watch, or listen to, keep in mind these 6 guiding principles.**

1. **Always think actively and critically as you read.**
   Does the argument you are reading make sense?

2. **No one is perfect.**
   Everyone makes mistakes, even those whose research is accepted and published.
   Again, does the argument make sense? Does the data presented support the argument?

3. "**Unbiased information** is an oxymoron." 
   Everyone has an opinion or an agenda. What is the perspective of the author? Do you need to compare the information from the author to information found in sources of other perspectives?

4. **Never assume.**
   Make sure the opinion you read is backed by facts.

5. **Appearances can be deceiving.**
   What has been presented? What has not been presented?
   Make sure that ALL the pertinent facts are presented in an argument, not just one side.
   Good research and the provision of quality information involve no cherry-picking.

6. **A house stands or falls on its foundation.**
   Look at the sources cited by the writer. Are they reliable, reputable, objective, current sources? If there aren’t any, do you need to look elsewhere and find some?