The Reliability Checklist

1. Who is the **author**? What are their qualifications for saying this? Does their context affect their view?
2. What is the **date** on the source? Is it out of date or from a context that will effect it’s content?
3. What **audience** was the source constructed for? Does this effect the way it was constructed?
4. What was the **purpose** for construction? Does this effect the message?
5. Has this source any **bias**? Are there underlying ideas and assumptions or emotive language?
6. Does the source **agree** with other sources?
7. **Evaluate** how reliable this source is.

There are three main areas that you can cover in your folio after considering the list of questions above. You could combine these into two or even one section. For example: reliability of the source and credibility of the author are going to often be very similar. However, you may want to leave them separated as sometimes a well renowned expert (highly credible) could write an article that is a dud (not reliable).

**Credibility:** Can you trust the author?

**Reliability:** Is the source itself well made and seems to be true

**Relevance:** Will the source help you answer all your question? or just one part? or none of it?