Source Evaluation: TOECAP

T: Is the source TRUSTWORTHY?
   A. Who created the source and what are their credentials?
      ➢ The databases make this an easy question to answer.
   B. Where did the authors get their information?
      ➢ If there is no author info and/or no links to sources, that is a red flag

O: Is the source OBJECTIVE?
   A. Objective means devoid of bias
   B. Subjective means expressing an opinion
      ➢ If the source is subjective, be sure to include the bias
   C. The source could also be Ironic meaning intended as satire or parody

E: Does the source have ENOUGH information?
   A. Does the source have enough information for you?
   B. Does it have too much information?
   C. Based on the amount of info, select from the following:
      ➢ Broad Overview of Topic: For Getting Started
      ➢ Some Detailed Content: For Deepening Understanding/Narrowing Focus
      ➢ In-depth Discussion of Topic: Could Provide Quotes or Counterarguments
      ➢ Unacceptable: Too Shallow; No Diving Allowed!

C: Is the source CURRENT?
   A. How recent is the information in the source? When was the source last updated?
      Are there any broken links on the page? (This may indicate lack of editing!)

A: Is the source ACCURATE?
   A. Compare the information on the site to that which you already know
   B. If the information is new, look for confirmation elsewhere
   C. Has the source been edited or are there spelling, grammar, and/or factual errors?

P: What is the source’s PURPOSE?
   A. Why do the authors want you to read the source? To Inform? Persuade? Sell?
   B. For whom has the site been built? Fans? Students?

Summary:

What are the critical elements of this site and its possible use?
   ➢ Look over your TOECAP info and make a decision about the site’s possible use (or lack thereof)
   ➢ If the site is useful, indicate how it may help you later down the road
   ➢ What ideas or phrases will help you remember which article/website is which?
   ➢ Are there some key quotes that you already know you may need?