



Tips for Analyzing Information

As an FCCLA peer educator, you will find a lot of information about the issue that concerns you. It is important to know how to analyze whether the information you find is balanced, unbiased, and based on facts. Here are some questions to consider.

- What type of source is it—scholarly, commercial, governmental, private?
- What are the author's or producer's qualifications for this topic?
- When was the information created? How much has this topic area changed in the months or years since the information was created? Does the information reflect the current knowledge about this topic area?
- In which country was it published?
- What is the reputation of the publisher, producer, or distributor?
- Was the material reviewed or edited for publication?
- Does the source show political or cultural biases?
- Is there a bibliography or another form of documentation included? If statistics are given, can you tell when and by whom they were gathered?

Use the **Evaluating Information Worksheet** to analyze information sources.

Source: *Evaluating Information: A Basic Checklist* (Chicago, Ill.: American Library Association.)