Evaluating Books Exercise
This worksheet will help you to think critically about book resources. It is important to remember that all published work, even books, should be viewed with a critical eye to determine the authority, credibility, bias, and/or objectiveness of the author and/or publisher. Using the books you’ve brought to class, and your partner, comment on the following criteria:

Given what you know about citations thus far, provide as much of a citation for the book as you can...

*For example:* MLA style

**Audience and purpose**
Who was this book written for? Who is likely to read this and why? Is it intended for a scholarly audience (those who are experts), or a more general audience?

**Writing Style**
Is the style of writing highly academic or easy to understand and read? Would you read this for fun?

**Sources**
Are there a bibliography and/or notes at the end of the book? Is it short, extensive, or nonexistent? Do you think this was very well researched?
Author’s credentials
Has this author published anything else? Do a search in WorldCat and find out. Are they knowledgeable in this field? Do they have a degree in this field? Have they won any awards?

Publisher’s credentials
What kinds of books does this publisher usually publish? Is this a small university press or a large corporate publisher?

Timeliness
When was this published? Is it current enough for your topic? Why?

Find a review
Try Proquest for this. If I was looking for a review of Dick Cheney’s new book, I would type the title in quotation marks “In My Time” and limit by document type review.
What did you learn from the reviews?

Would you still use this book for your research? Is this the best resource you can find, or one of many?