## Intellectual Standards for Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intellectual Standards</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Sources and Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarity</td>
<td>Could you elaborate further? Could you give me an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?</td>
<td>Could you state the main point of this source in common language?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>How can we check on that? How can we find out if this is true? How can we verify this?</td>
<td>Is the person who wrote this an expert? Do others in the field verify the results or conclusions?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Precision              | Could you be more specific? Could you give more details? | Strategy:  
  - Did I use the right terms to retrieve no more or less that what I need?  
  - Did my search strategy (keywords, subject, tool choice) yield the right results? |
| Relevance              | How does this relate to your assignment? | Strategy:  
  - Did my search strategy result in the right types of sources?  
  - Do these results meet my criteria and match my topic?  
Source:  
  - What information does this source give us about the topic?  
  - Does this source expand our knowledge or awareness of the topic?  
  - How does this help with my issue or question? |
| Depth                  | What makes this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of the question? | Strategy:  
  - Did I search in enough places to find all the information I need?  
  - Did I dig deep enough in this tool to find all the sources I need?  
Source:  
  - Is this source long enough to answer or help explain the topic?  
  - Is this source written for scholars or researchers in the field? |
| Breadth                | Do we need to look at this from a different perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways? | Strategy:  
  - Am I looking in all the places I need to look, and considering all the different aspects of the topic?  
  - Am I looking for other views on this topic?  
Source:  
  - Is this source focusing on a specific aspect of the topic?  
  - Do we need to find another source to expand our knowledge? |
| Fairness               | Am I ignoring other aspects or favoring one point of view? Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others? | Is this source biased toward a particular point of view? Is this source trying to sell, entertain, or persuade rather than inform? |

http://criticalthinking.org/