The 5 W's Sign Posts

**WHO...**
... wrote it; what are their credentials; what else have they written?
... published it; are they reputable?
... sponsored it?
... is the intended audience?

**WHAT...**
... is the scope or purpose?
... is it; primary or secondary?
... is it; qualitative or quantitative?
... is the bias or point of view?
... is the writing quality and style?
... methods did the author use to gather information?

**WHEN...**
... was it published?
... was it written?

**WHERE...**
... was it published?
... where was it written?
... is the supporting documentation?

**WHY...**
... was it written?
... how accurate is it?
... was it received?
... relevant is it to your thesis?