

Your name _____


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A Guide for Evaluating Web Resources




Web pages can be created by anyone from a scientist on the cutting edge of a cure for cancer to a high school dropout who proclaims himself to be an expert on the environment. Both could be good sources but we should first accurately evaluate the validity of the information on their web pages based on accuracy, authority, advocacy, objectivity, currency, and coverage. Complete the following sheet for each online site you want to use for research papers and projects. Some answers will be a simple “yes” or “no” others may need a little more explanation. Please follow all directions.


Please give the address of the site you are evaluating on the line below.

 Accuracy and Authority	Yes /No
Does the page have a listed author(s) or organization who is responsible for the page? List below.	Yes/No
Is there an e-mail address to contact the author(s) or organization? List below.	Yes/No
What authority or credentials does the author(s) or organization have? Explain below.	
Is the web page linked to an organization, commercial enterprise, or individual? (circle one if applicable)	Yes/No
Does the domain include a recognizable path (i.e. edu, gov)? If yes, what is it?	Yes/No
What evidence did you find to prove or disprove the credibility of the information on the page(s)? List below.	

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		Yes /No
Advocacy and Objectivity		
What is the purpose of the web page (i.e. to inform, to persuade...)?		
Can the purpose cause the web author to be biased?		Yes/No
Does the author express his or her opinion as fact?		Yes/No
Does the information appear one-sided?		
Does the author express his or her ideas with references to show he/she has done research?		Yes/No
Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else? How?		Yes/No
Would information somewhere else have been different? How?		Yes/No
Is there a feeling that the information on the page could be influenced by the advertising or organization?		Yes/No

		Yes /No
Currency and Coverage		
Does the page have a creation date or revision date? If so please give here.		Yes/No
Is the information current?		Yes/No
Is the information useful to your purpose?		Yes/No
Would it have been easier to get information somewhere else?		Yes/No
Does up-to-date information matter to your purpose?		Yes/No
Are you satisfied that the information is useful for your purpose?		Yes/No

Sources

Jansen, B. (2002). Web Site Evaluation Guide. Retrieved Jan 24, 2005 from

<http://teacherbridge.cs.vt.edu/public/projects/EcoTecture/Website+Evaluation+Guide>

UCLA College Library Help Guides (2000). Hoax? Scholarly Research? Personal Opinion? You decide!

Retrieved June 29, 2004 from <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/hoax/index.htm>