

Evaluating Web Sites

Source & Date

1. Who is the author (person or organization) of the page? (Look for a link that says “About Us”)
2. Does the organization or person hold copyright for the webpage? (look for the copyright symbol followed by a date) Yes No
3. Does this author list his or her credentials? Yes No
4. What are the author’s credentials? Have you heard of them before? With this information, do you think this author is qualified to write on the topic?
 Yes No I Don’t Know
5. **Search the author and then the organization name** in the *Library’s catalog* and also *Gale’s InfoTrac OneFile* article database. Based on this preliminary search , did you find any published materials by or about the author? **Cite one source below using Chicago citation style.** If you did not find any articles or books by or about this person/organization **that verify what they say**, you may want to reconsider your answer to #4. If you find a source but it counters what the website says, indicate that next to the source.
6. What institution (organization, university, etc.) or Internet provider supports this page? (Look at the ending of the server name on the http:// address. Does it end with .edu, .gov, .org?)
7. What is the main computer server for this page? (you can find this by deleting everything on the address (url) after the first single slash / and hitting *Enter*)
8. Does the information appear to be biased? For example, if the author is from an institution, does the author’s affiliation with this particular institution appear to bias the information? Are both sides of any issue or opinion represented or just one side? Is it biased?
 Yes No

9. When was the information created? Last updated?

Content

10. What is the purpose of this web page? (may do more than one)

- Inform – just gives information
- Explain – tries to justify actions or theories
- Persuade – tries to convince you to take action

11. Do you notice any spelling or grammatical errors: Yes No

12. Does the author cite sources or include a list of references: Yes No

13. Are the links appropriate for the subject of the page: Yes No

14. Are the links up to date? (e.g. Have any sites moved or don't exist anymore)

- Yes
- No

REMEMBER THAT EACH TIME YOU CLICK ON A LINK YOU MAY BE GOING TO A COMPLETELY NEW WEBSITE THAT WOULD REQUIRE A NEW EVALUATION!

Conclusion

15. Is the information provided relevant to your topic?

16. Overall, do you feel that this web page is an accurate source of information? Unbiased? Useful? **Please explain.**