# Website Evaluation Guide for Students

Use this guide to help you decide whether or not the web pages you are viewing are reliable sources for research. Need help? Ask your librarian!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Based on the information you found about the author, rate this source:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Who is the author?**  
Can’t find a name? Look at the top and bottom of the page. Click through other pages on the site to see if an author is listed. | □ Credible  
□ Not Credible |
| **What makes the author an expert on this topic?**  
What do you learn about the author’s occupation, years of experience, education, or other facts that make them an expert? | |
| **What connections does the author have?**  
List any connections the author has to a university, research laboratory, government agency, or other reputable organization related to the topic. | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Based on what you found out about the purpose, rate this source:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **What is the purpose of the website?**  
To sell something? To provide information? To convince you of something? What does the domain name (.com, .gov, .edu, .biz, .org) tell you about the purpose of the site? | □ Biased  
□ Not Biased |
| **Are all viewpoints presented?**  
If only one side of the argument is presented, what viewpoint is left out? | |
| **What is left out?**  
What other resources or information might be able to provide you with the other side of the story? | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accuracy</th>
<th>The information on this page is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Obvious mistakes**  
Note any obvious errors on the page, including spelling or grammar errors. What do these errors suggest about care in producing the page? | □ Accurate  
□ Not Accurate |
| **Correct facts**  
How does the information factually compare to information from other sources you have already read? | |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Content and Currency</th>
<th>The information on this page is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| If statistics are provided, how old is the data? | □ Current  
□ Not Current |
| How recent is the other information on the page? Does this make the information more or less valuable? | □ Cited  
□ Not Cited |
| When was the page written? When was it last revised? | |
| Does the author provide a bibliography, works cited page, or footnotes that tell us where they got their information? | |

**Summary:** The best reasons for using or rejecting this website are: