

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 library media teacher!

Author:		Based on the information you found about the author, rate this source:
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 looking for an author).		
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 him an expert?	Credible	
List any connection the author has to a university, research laboratory, governmental agency, or other reputable organization related to the topic.	Not Credible	

Purpose:		Based on what you found out about the purpose, rate this source:
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, .org, .edu) tell you about the purpose of the site?		
If only one side of the argument is presented, what side is left out?	Biased	
What is another resource or type of resource that might provide the other side of the story?	Not Biased	

Accuracy:		This information is
Note any obvious errors on the page, including spelling or grammar errors . What does this suggest about care in producing the page?		
How does the information factually compare to information from other sources you've already read?	Not Accurate	

Content and Currency:		This information is
If statistics are provided, how old is the data?		
How recent is the other information on the page? Does this make the information more or less valuable?	Current	
When was the page written? When was it last revised?	Cited	
Does the author provide a bibliography, Works Cited page or footnotes that tell us where he got the information?	Not Current	
	Not Cited	

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