

Evaluate Web Sites

Because **anyone** can publish on the Web, it is important to be able to distinguish between reliable and unreliable web sites. Consider **all** of the following criteria when evaluating a web site.

| Criteria | Factors |
|-------------|---|
| Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Who wrote it? <input type="checkbox"/> What are their qualifications? <input type="checkbox"/> Are they experts? <input type="checkbox"/> Who published/hosted it? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the publisher/host reputable? |
| Objectivity | <input type="checkbox"/> Why was this site created? <input type="checkbox"/> Is this fact or opinion? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it biased? |
| Accuracy | <input type="checkbox"/> Is this true? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you tell where they got their information? <input type="checkbox"/> Can you find this information elsewhere? |
| Currency | <input type="checkbox"/> When was this information published or last updated? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it current enough for your research? |

TIPS:

- The **author and publisher/host** may be the **same**. For example, if you don't see an author's name on an organization's website, then the organization is both the author and the publisher.
- You may not find all of your answers on the web page provided. You may have to **look at other pages** on the web site (look for an "about" link, for example) or search the web for more information about the person or organization that created the web site.
- **Weigh all four criteria** when making your decision. For example, the information may appear accurate, but if the authority is suspect you may want to find a more authoritative site for your information.

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