

Online Evaluation Guidelines

"You ARE what you know." Question what you read, *especially* from the Internet.

Credible sources/authority

Who posted this information?

Read the URL (Uniform Resource Locator), which is the *unique* address of a Web site.
The most common domains in a URL are listed below. **They still have to be evaluated.**

- .com = commercial site (commercial sites vary in their credibility) - *may be biased*
- .net = now used the same as a .com site - *may be biased*
- .org = an organization, often a not-for-profit site - *may be biased*
- .gov = United States government - *mostly reliable with factual information*
- .edu = a school or university in the United States - *mostly reliable*

Can you find the name of the author (person or organization) that posted the information?

Hint: Look at the top and bottom of the page to find an author. Look for tabs "About," "Contact," "Home" for an author.

Author's name _____ No

Objective/purpose

What is the objective or purpose of this site?

Hint: Look at the "About", "Home", "Mission Statement" sections.

The objective or purpose of this site is

Accurate/valid /reliable

Was this information posted in other sources?

Does the site give references to the information posted?

Are there links to other reputable and valid sources?

Check at least two more online and/or print sources and see if the authors agree on the information.

Yes. The sources are _____ No

Timely/current

Depending on your topic, is the information timely?

Look at the date of the information posted.

Is the information still accurate today for your use?

Yes No Why? _____