

Web Page Evaluation Check List

Evaluating web pages requires two actions:

- be suspicious
- think critically about every page you find

Title of the page you are evaluating: _____

1. Look at the URL (Found in the "Address" area)

a. What type of domain is it?

- .com .org/.net .edu .gov/.mil/.us .uk (country-sponsored)

b. Does it correspond to the name of the site?

Publisher or Domain Name entity: _____

2. Scan the perimeter of the page, look for answers to these questions:

a. Who wrote the page?

- email name: _____

b. Dated? When was the web site last revised, modified or updated?

- Date: _____ Current enough? Yes No

c. Credential on this subject? (Truncate back the URL if no useful links)

- Evidence? _____

d. Is there a link to a "Mission Statement" or "about our organization" page?

3. Look for these indicators of quality:

a. Sources are well documented?

b. Links to more resources? Do they work?

c. Other viewpoints? Bias? Opinionated? Ads? (READ between the lines)

d. Is the factual information objective? Are there links to the original source?

4. What do others say?

a. Who links to it? (HINT: Try checking www.alexacom.com)

- Many Few Types Notes: _____

b. Look up the author in Google.

5. Does it all add up?

a. Why was the page put on the Web?

- Inform, facts, data Explain Persuade Sell Entice

- Share/Disclose Other: _____

b. Possibly ironic? Satire or parody?

BOTTOM LINE: Is the web page as good as (or better than) what you could find in journal articles or other published literature that is not on the free, general web?

Examples of some biased sources: www.ihr.org www.nrlc.org www.fairus.org

Modified from "The Best Stuff on the Web" Joe Barker, The Teaching library, Univ. of California-Berkeley.