



## How to evaluate

1. **Look at the URL** (the address). Is it a personal site (look for ~ or % or *users, members, or people*)?

Is it a government or school/college site (**.gov** or **.edu**)?

Is it clear who publishes it—does it match the name of the site?

2. **Look at the top, bottom and sides** for information about when the site was created, who created it and when it was created. Is there contact information for the author? Is the author an expert in his/her field?

3. **Skim over the content** to look for **sources, links** to other sources, and evidence of **bias**. (Sometimes bias is ok. Fan sites can have great information, but it's important to notice there is a bias and keep it in mind as you evaluate the information you find. Perhaps you can find a site with an alternate point of view.)

## Ask yourself

Is this an **expert author**?

Can you find contact information? Credentials? (Note there is a difference between the author and the webmaster.)

Does the author seem **objective** (unbiased)? Is he or she biased, or have a reason to be biased?

Does the site have a **clear purpose**?

Is it for teaching (educational), selling (commercial), or sharing (fan)?

Is the information **up-to-date**?

When was it last-updated? Is it current enough for what you need?

Is the information **objective**?

What opinions are expressed? How detailed is the information? Is there **little or no advertising**?

Are there **documented sources**—where did the author get the information? Are there **links to other sites**?

Where is this site published?

**Is there anything specific to your topic that you want to keep in mind?**