

Web Page Evaluation Checklist

Print two (2) copies of this page and complete this checklist for both websites (web pages) used in your research project. Submit to your instructor as directed.

Evaluating web pages requires 2 actions: Be suspicious and think critically about every page.

Title of the Page:	Title:
1. Look at the url:	
What is the url?	URL:
What type of domain is it?	<input type="checkbox"/> com <input type="checkbox"/> org/net <input type="checkbox"/> edu <input type="checkbox"/> gov/mil/us <input type="checkbox"/> non-US <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
Is the domain appropriate for the content?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> don't know
Published by appropriate entity?	Publisher or Domain Name:
2. Scan the perimeter of the page, looking for answers to these questions:	
Who wrote the page?	Name: Email:
Is the page dated?	Date: Current enough?
Author's credentials on this subject (Truncate back through the URL to find if necessary)	Evidence? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no What are the credentials?
3. Look for these indicators of quality:	
Sources well documented	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Complete?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Explain:
Links to more resources	Are there links? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Do they work? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Alternative viewpoints included	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Does it argue a position?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Who links to it? Hint: in Google, search <i>link:all.or.part.of.url</i>	Many or few? Type of sites linked to it?
Look up the author in Google	What do you find?
General Conclusions: Does it all add up?	
Why was the page put on the Web?	<input type="checkbox"/> inform, facts, data <input type="checkbox"/> persuade <input type="checkbox"/> sell <input type="checkbox"/> entice <input type="checkbox"/> share/disclose <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
Your overall assessment	Assessment of its usefulness in scholarly research (explain):

The 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 Web for free?

Adapted from: Joe Barker, The Teaching Library, University of California, Berkeley "The Best Stuff on the Web."
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