**Topic: Evaluating Websites & Web Content**

Who wrote the page?

For academic papers, you need accurate and reliable sources. Look for the name of the author somewhere on the page, and ask these questions.

- Is this a personal page?
- Is this person **qualified** to write the "article?"
- What is his/her occupation, education, experience?
- What are his/her **credentials**?
- Is there an email or **contact** information available?
- Does the author belong to a particular organization, institution or business?

Why is the page on the Web? What is its **purpose**?

You can get a lot of information about the site from the web address or URL. Is the information provided to inform, persuade, sell, entertain, or another reason? Who is the audience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>.edu   (educational institution)</th>
<th>.com (commercial)</th>
<th>.biz (business)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.gov  (government)</td>
<td>.mil (military)</td>
<td>.org  (organization)</td>
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</table>

When was the page put on the Web?

For most academic papers, you need current sources. Look to see if the web site is regularly updated, and whether the owner is still maintaining the site. Are there active links from this page?

How can this information be used?

How relevant is the information to my topic? Is the information too general? Does the author cite where he/she got the information? Is the information clearly presented and easily understood? Is it accurate?
1. Is the author’s name on the page?  Y __  N __  name: ______________________

2. Is there an email address or contact information?  Y __  N __  __________________

3. Is the person qualified to provide this information?  Y __  N __  __________________

4. Is this an educational or government site?  Y __  N __  _________________________

5. Is the purpose of the site clearly stated?  Y __  N __  _________________________

6. Was the site recently updated?  Y __  N __  When? ____________________________

7. Are there active links from this site to other sites?  Y __  N __  _________________

8. Is the information current?  Y __  N __  _________________________________

9. Is the information relevant to my topic?  Y __  N __  _________________________

10. Does the author cite where he/she got their information?  Y __  N __

11. Is the information clearly written, and easily understood?  Y __  N __

12. Is the information accurate?  Y __  N __

NOTES:

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Name of Website: ________________________________________________________

URL: _________________________________________________________________