

Worksheet for Evaluating Web Sites

What ?	<p>WHAT is the page/site about? Does it have the kind of information you need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at the browser title bar, document title, content & links.• <i>Record the title of the web page and web site for citation!</i> <p>This page's title is:</p> <p>This site's title is:</p>
Who?	<p>WHO created the page/site about? Can you find and verify the author's qualifications, whether an individual or organization?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look for "About the author/About us" links for the author's name and contact info.• Verify credentials in another source, e.g. journal, encyclopedia, directory.• Look for a link to the home page of the Web site where the document lives.• Look at the parts of the URL/address to find organizational affiliation.• <i>Record the name of the author of the web page for citation!</i> <p>This page's author is:</p>
Where?	<p>WHERE is the information coming from?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at the address or URL: e.g., .edu=educational, .com=commercial, .org=organization, .gov=government, two-letter country codes.• Look up domain owner with Whois search (http://www.networksolutions.com/en_US/whois/index.jhtml)• <i>Record the URL of the web page for citation!</i> <p>The URL of this page is:</p> <p>Do the parts of the URL match the name of the institution/organization on the page? (circle) YES / NO</p> <p>If a .edu URL, is it from a (circle) student page, department, or faculty page?</p>

Why?

WHY is this site on the Web and how does it affect the information?

- Look at “About us/Mission/Purpose,” links, content, and advertising.
- Determine the purpose of the site:
 - ? Advocacy or “soapbox” (tries to persuade).
 - ? Informational (often has multiple viewpoints and references).
 - ? Business or marketing (tries to sell).
 - ? Entertainment.
- Choose sites whose purposes are compatible with your information needs.

I believe this site is on the Web to (circle): advocate/persuade; inform/educate; sell/business; or entertain. Why?

When?

WHEN was the page or information created? Is the date important for the timeliness of the content?

- Look for dates. Can you tell what they mean? Publication or copy-right date? Last modified or updated? Date statistics gathered or published?
- *Record the date created and date visited for web page citation!*

I visited this page on: _____ The date on the page is: _____

The date (circle one) does / does not affect the content.

How?

How accurate or credible is the page? How would I cite it?

- Examine references and bibliographies.
- Verify information in another reputable source (e.g. encyclopedia, journal, book, other Web site).
- If you notice many errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc., question the accuracy of other information.
- See [<http://memorial.library.wisc.edu/citing.htm>] for Internet Citation Guides.

This page (circle one) does / does not have references or a bibliography pointing to the source of information.

This pages (circle one) does / does not have noticeable errors.

This is the citation I will use for this source in my bibliography: