

Name _____

Web Page Evaluation Checklist

The column on the left lists questions to ask to investigate web pages.

Evaluating Web pages requires two actions:

- search thoroughly for information
- be suspicious: think critically about every page you find

1. Look at the URL: _____

Personal page or site?	~ or %, or users, members, or people <input type="checkbox"/> ~ or %, or users, members, or people
What type of domain is it? Appropriate for the content?	<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: Reasoning:
Published by entity that makes sense? Does it correspond to the name of the site?	Publisher or Domain Name entity:

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

Who wrote the page?	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Name
Dated?	Date _____ Current enough?
Credentials on this subject? (Truncate back the URL if no useful links.)	Evidence?

3. Look for these indicators of quality

Sources well documented?	Evidence?
Complete? If 2nd-hand information, is it not altered or forged?	Evidence?

Links to more resources? Do they work?	Examples of links:
Other viewpoints? Bias?	Evidence:

4. What do others say?

Who links to it? Hint: In Google search: <i>link:all.or.part.of.url</i>	Many or few? Opinions of it?
Is the page rated well in a directory? http://lil.org or http://infomine.ucr.edu or http://about.com	Findings:
Look up the author in Google	Findings:

5. Does it all add up?

Why was the page put on the Web?	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform, facts, data <input type="checkbox"/> Explain <input type="checkbox"/> Persuade <input type="checkbox"/> Sell <input type="checkbox"/> Entice <input type="checkbox"/> Share/disclose Other:
	Evidence:
Possibly ironic? Satire or parody?	Evidence:

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?