

WEB SITE EVALUATION

Evaluating web materials is essential for proper research. Be critical and cautious.

THE DOMAIN NAME CAN BE AN IMPORTANT KEY IN YOUR ASSESSMENT:

.org = non-profit organization
.gov = government
.edu = educational institution
.com = commercial enterprise
.net = networks such as AOL or ATT that provide homepages for individual's websites

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN EVALUATING WEB SOURCES:

Authority and Reliability

- What are the author's or creator's qualifications?
- What is the author's occupation, position or educational background?
- What is the author's affiliation to an institution or organization?
- When was the site created and last updated?
- Does the site name the person responsible for the site and provide for comments from users?
- Does the web site contain spelling errors or grammatical mistakes?

Perspective

- Does the author express a particular opinion?
- Does the author have a bias?
- Do any associated or linked web sites have a bias?

Purpose

- Is the information directed at a particular audience (general public, researchers, scholars)?
- Does the information persuade, inform or explain?
- What conclusions (if any) are contained in the information?