

Website Evaluation Guidelines

CURRENCY—The timeliness of the information

- **When was the information published or posted?**
- **Has the information been revised or updated?**
- **Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work as well?**
- **Are the links functional?**

RELEVANCE—The importance of the information for your needs

- **Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?**
- **Who is the intended audience?**
- **Is the information at an appropriate level (ie: not too elementary or advanced for your needs?)**
- **Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?**
- **Would you be comfortable citing this source in your research papers?**

AUTHORITY—The source of the information

- **Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?**
- **What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations?**
- **Is the author qualified to write on the topic?**
- **Is there contact information, such as a publisher or email address?**
- **Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? Examples: .com .edu .gov .org .net**

ACCURACY—The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of content

- **Where does the information come from?**
- **Is the information supported by evidence?**
- **Has the information been reviewed or refereed?**
- **Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?**
- **Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?**
- **Are there spelling, grammar, or typographical errors?**

PURPOSE—The reason the information exists

- **What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?**
- **Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?**
- **Is the information fact, opinion, or propaganda?**
- **Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?**
- **Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?**