

# Questions to use when analyzing websites

## Objectivity **How broad-minded or biased is the content?**



### Look for...

- Does the author present a limited or over-simplified perspective on the topic?
- Does the argument appeal more to the emotions than to reason?
- Is extreme or exaggerated language used?

## Links from **What links to other web sites are found on this page?**



### Look for...

- Do the links point to reliable information on other sites?
- Do these pages *support* or *contradict* the author's claims?
- Do the links work?

## Date **How fresh or current is the information on this page?**



### Look for...

- Can a date of publication be found?
- Does the date the document was published (or updated) affect the reliability of the information?

## Accuracy **How accurate is the author's work?**



### Look for...

- Are the facts correct?
- Do the author's conclusions follow from the facts?
- Are there spelling or grammatical errors?
- Can the facts be verified: Do other (independent) sites provide the same facts?

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## Evidence Does external evidence support the author's work?



### Look for...

- Does external evidence support the claims made?
- Does the author provide data or external sources to support important opinions or conclusions?
- Is there a way to contact the author or publisher to check the information?

## Links to What other web sites link to this page?



### Look for...

- Do the links come from reliable sites?
- Do the links *support* or *contradict* the author's claims?
- Do these pages add any new information or perspectives on the topic?
- Are these pages from the same site or different sites?

## Author What is the author's expertise on the topic?



### Look for...

- How much experience does the author have in this area?
- What is the author's occupation?
- What is the author's educational background?
- What is the author's reputation among others in the field?

## Publisher What is the publisher's reputation?



### Look for...

- What is the publisher's reputation for printing resources on this topic?
- Is this site sponsoring the author's page or just providing web space?
- What is the mission of the organization?
- Does the publisher provide contact information?