

# Evaluating an Online Source Checklist



Evaluate a website critically to determine whether the information is current, factual, credible, reliable, and relevant. This checklist will help to determine whether an online source is a good resource.

**SOURCE #1** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Currency**    **Is the information current?**

- When was the information published?
- Are the links working?
- Is the information current enough for your topic?

## **Relevance**    **Is the information related to your topic?**

- Does the information help answer your inquiry question?
- Is the information written at an appropriate level for you?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before deciding to use this one?

## **Authority**    **Is the author credible?**

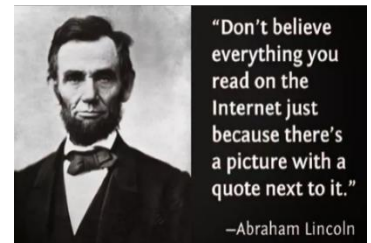
- Who is the author?
- What are the credentials of the author?
- Is the author qualified or an expert on the topic?
- Who is the publisher? Look at the URL of the source as well (.edu, .gov., .org, .net, .com)
  - .com—a commercial website
  - .gov—a government owned/operated website
  - .org—a website associated with an organization
  - .edu—a website associated with an educational institution
  - .net—a website used by network providers

## **Accuracy**    **Is the content correct?**

- Is the content reliable, truthful, and unbiased?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Is the content free of spelling, grammar, and typographical errors?

## **Purpose**    **Is the purpose to inform or teach?**

- Why has the author published the information?
- Does the author make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? Is the information fact? Opinion?



Purdue Online Writing Lab

# Evaluating an Online Source Checklist

**SOURCE #2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Currency**    **Is the information current?**

- When was the information published?
- Are the links working?
- Is the information current enough for your topic?

**Relevance**    **Is the information related to your topic?**

- Does the information help answer your inquiry question?
- Is the information written at an appropriate level for you?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before deciding to use this one?

**Authority**    **Is the author credible?**

- Who is the author?
- What are the credentials of the author?
- Is the author qualified or an expert on the topic?
- Who is the publisher? Look at the URL of the source as well (.edu, .gov., .org, .net, .com)
  - .com—a commercial website
  - .gov—a government owned/operated website
  - .org—a website associated with an organization
  - .edu—a website associated with an educational institution
  - .net—a website used by network providers

**Accuracy**    **Is the content correct?**

- Is the content reliable, truthful, and unbiased?
- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Is the content free of spelling, grammar, and typographical errors?

**Purpose**    **Is the purpose to inform or teach?**

- Why has the author published the information?
- Does the author make their intentions or purpose clear?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? Is the information fact? Opinion?