

If it's Online, it Must Be True!

Melissa Rosen

District 70 Schools, Libertyville, IL

mrosen@d70schools.org



Free Web pages! Free Wikis! Free Blogs!

How do you know who makes a website? How accurate is information on websites? Stay tuned for more information...

Websites to Evaluate:

- <http://www.sonofthesouth.net>
- <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/>
- <http://www.thedogisland.com/>
- <http://tinyurl.com/indiotica>
- <http://www.molossia.org/countryeng.html>
- <http://tinyurl.com/lunarjob>
- <http://tinyurl.com/amerbrit>
- <http://tinyurl.com/sellzoo>

Website Evaluation Resources

- <http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/webeval.html>
- <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>
- <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/webevaluation/>
- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/eval.html>
- <http://www.saskschools.ca/~ischool/tisdale/integrated/wysiwyg/teacher.htm>

Web Page Evaluation Checklist

**The column on the left lists questions to ask to investigate web pages.
Evaluating Web pages requires two actions:**

*be suspicious
*think critically about every page you find

Title of page you are evaluating:	
URL of the page you are evaluating:	
1. General Information:	
What is the level of domain of this website?	_____ .com _____ .org _____ .edu _____ .gov _____ .net

2. Authorship:	
Who wrote the page?	
What organization is related to this site?	
Is contact information provided. Place an X next to all that apply.	_____ Email Address _____ Telephone # _____ Mail Address _____ Contact Name
Based on Authorship, do you think you can rely on the information on this website?	_____ Yes _____ No

3. Content:	
What is the main purpose of the site?	_____ to inform _____ to persuade _____ to sell a product _____ Other
Is there advertising?	_____ Yes _____ No
Is it distracting?	_____ Yes _____ No

4. Currency:	
When was this page written or last updated?	Date _____ Is it current enough? _____ Yes _____ No Automatically updated _____ Yes _____ No

5. Look for these indicators of quality:	
Is the content meaningful and useful?	_____ Yes _____ No
Is the page free from spelling and grammatical errors?	_____ Yes _____ No
Sources well documented?	_____ Yes _____ No
Links to more resources Do they work?	_____ Yes _____ No

6. What do others say?	
Who links to it? Hint: In google search: link:URL	Many or few? _____ Which websites? _____ Opinions of it? _____
Is the page rated well in a directory? http://ipl.org	_____ Yes _____ No
Look up the author in Google Does he seem well known?	_____ Yes _____ No

7. Is the Web Site designed well?	
Do the pages load quickly?	_____ Yes _____ No
Is the site easy to navigate through and can you find what you want easily?	_____ Yes _____ No
Is the site free from too many distracting images, animations, colors, wild backgrounds, and sounds?	_____ Yes _____ No

8. Additional Information	
Go to http://whois.domaintools.com/	What additional information did you find? _____

9. Should you use this Web Site for information?	
Based on your answers, do you think the Web Site is a reliable source of information for you to use?	_____ Yes _____ No