

Successful Information Evaluation - TIPS

Evaluate Your Print or Web Sources Carefully with 6 Questions:

- **Authority** - Who is the author of the information source?
- **Timeliness** - The date of publication may be an important factor in evaluating an information source, especially in subject areas - such as science and technology - where currency is significant.
- **Documentation** - Just as your research paper must include a list of references, a scholarly book, article or Web page ought to contain a list of sources consulted, a bibliography, and/or footnotes.
- **Purpose** - What seems to be the purpose of the author and, in the case of a Web document, the purpose of the Web site on which it appears?
- **Suitability** - Is the information too elementary, too technical, too advanced, or just right for your needs?
- **Review Process** - Does the information appear to have been critically reviewed prior to publication?

Be Able to Pick out 8 General Types of Web Sites:

Commercial	Educational	Entertainment	Hoax
Informative	Organizational	Persuasive	Personal

Generally Expect Reliable Information on 3 Types of Authoritative Web Sites:

Federal Government Agencies and Departments (.gov)
Colleges and Universities (.edu)
Professional Societies and Non-profit Organizations (.org)

REMINDERS for Successful Academic Information Evaluation:

- Understand the purpose and necessity of evaluating information;
- Recognize the 6 criteria for evaluating the validity of published information;
- Know the 8 general types of Web sites;
- Learn to distinguish between open Web and the deep Web;
- Look for the 3 types of Web sites most likely (BUT NOT ALWAYS) to support student research;
- Understand the difference in search results from library databases and Web search engines;
- Understand the academic value of information published in Wikipedia;
- Ask your professor or library staff for help in selecting reliable sources.