

Website Evaluation Tips

1. Recognize domain types.

.com

.org

.edu

.gov

.net

~

.mil

Ask yourself: Is this a commercial, governmental, **personal**, or academic website?

II. Establish credibility.

Use the "**A B C**" method to determine:

Authority

Who are the authors of the web page? What gives them their expertise? Are the authors and their credentials clearly identified? Is there a way to contact the author(s) via email or traditional mail? Who is responsible for the site? Is the sponsor reputable?

Bias

What is the purpose of the site? Is the main purpose to inform, to persuade, or to sell you something? Is the site's text well written? Is the site free from contests, giveaways or celebrity endorsements? Do you understand what is being said? What do you think has **NOT** been said that should be addressed?

Content

Is the site well organized? Are there misspelled words or examples of poor grammar? Does the site contain a bibliography of sources used by the author? Is the bibliography well documented and current? Do the site's links work? Do they send you beyond the site to other reliable sources of information?

3. Ask "WHY?"

Why is the information being presented on the Internet?

When in doubt, doubt.