ENGLISH 151B
EVALUATING A WEBSITE

Five points to consider when evaluating a website:

Accuracy: While reading the website, consider whether the information presented is fact or opinion, and if the information is reliable.

Authority: Make sure that the author is credible, knowledgeable, and qualified. Determine the author’s qualifications, experience, and background.

Coverage: The subject you are researching should be covered extensively. Review the material presented and determine if there is enough information to get a full understanding of your topic.

Currency: Verify that the information you are reading is current and up-to-date.

Objectivity: Read over the website and look to see if the information provided is unbiased or completely objective.

Website addresses:

All website addresses have an extension or domain name. This type of data is helpful when evaluating websites because it gives the reader some information regarding the source. The following are samples of some address extensions:

- .com is a commercial site.
- .edu is an academic site.
- .gov is a government site.
- .net is a network service provider.
- .org is usually a non-profit site.

When evaluating a website, preview the homepage and ask yourself the following questions:

1. Can you identify the website creator/administrator?
2. Can you find a date of creation and/or revision?
3. Can you determine who the intended audience is?
4. What is the purpose of the information provided?
5. Is there enough information provided? Is the information accurate?
ENGLISH 151B
Evaluating a Website: Part 1

Name: ___________________________

Class & Section: 151B- ____      Instructor: _______________________

Directions: Go to http://owl.english.purdue.edu/. Review and evaluate this website by completing the following questions.

1. Is the information current?   Yes  No
2. Is the date of creation or most recent revision date clearly shown?   Yes  No
3. Who is the sponsoring institution (government, university, commercial company)?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
4. What is the site’s purpose: to inform, explain, persuade or sell?
________________________________________________________________________
5. Is the information presented a fact?   Yes  No
6. Is the information presented an opinion?   Yes  No
7. Is the information provided unbiased?   Yes  No
8. Is the information completely objective?   Yes  No
9. Does the website have enough information to cover the topic?   Yes  No
10. Based on your answers above, do you think this is a good website to use for your paper or for a college student? Why or why not?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
ENGLISH 151B
Evaluating a Website: Part 2

Name: ___________________________

Class & Section: 151B- ___      Instructor: _______________________

Directions: Go to http://www.loc.gov/index.html. Review and evaluate this website by completing the following questions.

1. Is the information current?     Yes  No
2. Is the date of creation or most recent revision date clearly shown?     Yes  No
3. Who is the sponsoring institution (government, university, commercial company)?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the site’s purpose: to inform, explain, persuade or sell?
________________________________________________________________________

5. Is the information presented a fact?     Yes  No
6. Is the information presented an opinion?     Yes  No
7. Is the information provided unbiased?     Yes  No
8. Is the information completely objective?     Yes  No
9. Does the website have enough information to cover the topic?     Yes  No
10. Based on your answers above, do you think this is a good website to use for your paper or for a college student? Why or why not?
________________________________________________________________________
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