

Evaluation Assignments

Authority/Credibility Specialists:

- Who is responsible for this site? Who sponsors it? Hint: truncate each section of the URL back until you are able to find the sponsor or go to www.easywhois.com
- What is the domain name? Does it end in .com, .gov, .edu, .org, .net. Is it a personal page? Is that a meaningful clue in evaluating the site? (You can't always judge a web page by its suffix. Some commercial sites provide solid information. Some university sites offer less-than-serious personal pages to graduate students.
- Who else links to the site? (Perform a link check on Google by entering "link: web address in the search box. Is it linked to by reliable sites?
- Would you include this site in your bibliography?

Bias/Purpose Specialists:

- Why was this site created? (to persuade, inform, explain, sell, promote, parody, other?
- Is it a personal, commercial, government or organization site?
- Is there any bias? Is only one side of the argument presented? Does it appear that any information is purposely omitted? Is there a hidden message? Is it trying to persuade you or change your opinion? Is the bias useful to you in some way?
- Can you distinguish facts from opinion? Would you include this site in your bibliography?

Usability/Design Specialists:

- Is the site easy to navigate (user friendly)?
- Is there a well-labeled contents area?
- Are there any errors in spelling or grammar?
- Do the pages appear clean, uncluttered?
- Do the links on the site work?
- Would you include this site in your bibliography?

Content Specialists:

- Does the site cover the topic comprehensively? Accurately?
- Can you understand what is being said? Is it written above or below your level of understanding?
- What is unique about this site? Does it offer something others do not?
- Are the links well-chosen? Sufficient?
- Currency: Can you tell the date the information was created? The date last revised?
- Would you get better information in a book? An encyclopedia?