

# Evaluating Online Sources

## The URL

What is its domain?

- .com = a for-profit organization
  - .gov, .mil, .us (or other country code) = a government site
  - .edu = an educational institution
  - .org = a nonprofit organization
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- Is this URL someone's personal page?
  - Why might using information from a personal page be a problem?
  - Do you recognize who is publishing this page?
  - If not, you may need to investigate further to determine whether the publisher is an expert on the topic.

## Sponsor:

- Does the web site easily give information about the organization or group that sponsors it?
- Does it have a link (often called "About Us") that leads you to that information?
- What do you learn?

## Timeliness:

- When was the page last updated (usually this is posted at the top or bottom of the page)?
- How current a page is may indicate how accurate or useful the information in it will be.

## Purpose:

- What is the purpose of the page?
- What is its target audience?
- Does it present information or opinion?
- Is it primarily objective or subjective?
- How do you know?

## Author:

- What credentials does the author have?
- Is this person or group considered an authority on the topic?

## Links

- Does the page provide links?
- Do they work?
- Are they helpful?
- Are they objective or subjective?