

## WEB PAGE EVALUATION

*What keywords did you use? How many responses did you get?*

### 1. **Before you click on one, what does the URL tell you?**

What is the *domain*?

.edu, .org, .gov, .com, etc.?

Is it a personal page? (Is there a *tilde* ~ before the name?)

Who is the source/ publisher?

### 2. **Scan the page.**

Are there visual clues? Advertising, amateurish design?

Look for an “about” page – **is there a bias/ agenda/ sponsorship?**

TRUNCATE the url if you reach a “deep” link.

When was the page last updated?

Who wrote the page?

An individual? An organization?

Is there an e-mail address?

**Google** the author. Is the author an expert, a scholar, a hobbyist?

### 3. **Quality indicators.**

Are there documented sources with footnotes/ references?

Are the links extensive, and to quality sources?

Do the links work, and are they up-to-date?

Are basic rules observed? Grammar and spelling? Formal English vs.

vernacular? Sentence structure? Sensible inclusion of visual material?

### 4. **What do other users think of the site?**

Who links to this site?

Go to Google; enter “**link:url** (leave out <http://>)

### 5. **Do your evaluation.**

Do steps 1 through 4 lead you to believe that the source is reputable?

Why does the page exist? To inform, to sell, to inflame, to profit?

Is the web the best place/ a good place/ a useless place for your type of research?

Why?

### 6. **Evaluate this evaluation: can a web site fail these criteria and still be worthwhile? Can it pass, and still be suspicious?**