

# The Essay: Evaluating Sources

# Main Criteria for Evaluating Web Sources

- **Authority**
- **Accuracy**
- **Objectivity**
- **Currency**
- **Relevance**

# Authority

- Identify the Author: Look for the author's name.
- Research the author: qualifications, other publications, professional affiliations.
- Institutional Authority: Check if the source is published by a reputable institution (e.g., university, research institute).
- Author's Expertise: Determine if the author is an expert in the field: education background, experience.
- Contact Information: Look for contact details, which add legitimacy.

# Accuracy

- Fact-Checking: Cross-reference information with other credible sources.
- Evidence of Research: Look for citations, references, bibliography.
- Review Process: Check if the information has been peer-reviewed or editorially reviewed.
- Quality of Writing: Assess for grammatical errors, typos - these can be indicators of low-quality information.

# Objectivity

- Identifying Bias: Analyze if the content is one-sided or presents multiple viewpoints.
- Purpose of the Information: Determine whether the content is informative, persuasive, or intended for entertainment.
- Sponsorship and Advertising: Check for any commercial or political affiliations that might influence content

# Currency

- Publication Date: Check when the content was published or last updated.
- Relevance to Current Trends: Assess if the information reflects current trends or recent research in the field.
- Historical vs. Contemporary Information: Determine if the age of the information affects its usefulness for your research.

# Relevance

- Depth of Content: Evaluate the comprehensiveness of the information.
- Scope of Coverage: Determine whether the source covers the topic thoroughly or only superficially.
- Target Audience: Assess whether the content is appropriate for the intended audience (e.g., academic, general public).
- Relevance to Research Topic: Ensure that the information directly relates to and informs your research question or thesis.