

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

### Evaluating Internet Sites

**The more questions you can answer, the more reliable the web site.**

**1. WHO is the author of the information? WHO is the host or sponsor of the web site?**

**2. WHY was the site created? Does it have a specific purpose?**

**3. WHAT is the point of view?**

**4. HOW credible is the source?**

**5. WHEN was it last updated?**

**6. WHERE can I find more information?**

## Evaluating Web Information

The more questions you can answer, the more reliable the web site.

### WHO is the author of the information? WHO is the host or sponsor of the web site?

- *What information do they provide about themselves?*
- *Can you contact them? Is there an e-mail address? Do they list a street address?*
- **If you can't tell who is behind it...don't use it!**

### WHY was the site created? Does it have a specific purpose?

- *Does it state a purpose or mission? What is it? To sell? To inform? To persuade? Other? (Look for an "About Us" link.)*
- *What type of site is it?*  
*.com = commercial .net = network*  
*.gov = government .org = non-profit organization*  
*.edu = educational ~(tilde) = personal web page*

### WHAT is the point of view?

- *Is there any bias or slant? Or, is it neutral?*
- *Are there links to other viewpoints? Or, does it present both sides of the issue?*

### HOW credible is the source?

- *Does the author or organization have expertise on the topic? What education, degrees, or work experience does the author have?*
- *Who is the intended audience? College students? Consumers? Children?*
- *Is it scholarly—that is, written by a researcher or expert for a college or academic audience?*
- *Are the sources credited with a bibliography, works cited list, or references?*
- *Are there any obvious errors or misinformation? Is it a collaborative site such as Wikipedia to which anyone can post or edit information?*

### WHEN was it last updated?

- *Is the information current? When was it last revised? What is the copyright date?*
- *Are there many broken links?*

### WHERE can I find more information?

- *What can you find out about the author or site using other Internet sources or library reference materials? Some suggestions are Librarians' Internet Index ([www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org)), Contemporary Authors, Gale Literature Resource Center, Encyclopedia of Associations, and Magazines for Libraries.*