

**Title: Evaluating Web Sites**

**Outcome:**

Students will be able to evaluate Web sites in order to select web resources for academic papers.

**Curriculum:**

Web Site evaluation criteria:

Source, Purpose and Content

**Learning Activity 1:**

Instructor prompts students to talk consider an example of some selection process they make in their everyday lives – i.e. criteria they use in selecting a course for study at UWM, criteria they use in selecting a movie to see, buying a stereo, leather jacket etc.

Instructor explains that, similarly, when doing research and using the web, there are some criteria they should be using before including a site into their work: **Source, Purpose and Content**

For **Source**, they should 1) identify the person or group responsible for the site and 2) identify the person's credentials or group's contact information.

For **Purpose**, they should identify if the purpose of the site is to **inform, persuade, sell or entertain**.

For **Content**, they should determine if the site is 1) updated, 2) if information is presented with a bias or commercial intent and 3) free of errors and is professionally presented.

Having considered the above factors, they can decide whether to use a site or not.

Look at one site together and ask students whether or not they would use it. Example:

For the topic of school choice -

<http://www.schoolchoices.org/roo/vouchers.htm>

**Learning Activity 2:**

Divide the class into three groups and assign each group one of the criteria on the worksheet.

For one of the following research topics, look at each Web site listed, discuss how each Web site demonstrates or does not demonstrate the criteria indicated. Share your ideas in the group and be prepared to present two of your findings to the class. (Worksheet attached)

**Assessment:** On the board write the topic "Prevention of school violence" or a topic of your choice and this URL: <http://eric-web.tc.columbia.edu/digests/dig132.html> or a URL of your choice. Students will look at the web site and write on a card a) if they would use this site for a paper on this topic and b) 2 reasons why, based on the criteria on the board. Collect cards.

**Criteria:** Students states at least two relevant aspects of each web site that relate to the criteria.



<p><b>Topic:</b> Present an argument to a prospective business considering relocating to Wisconsin. Back up your arguments with facts.</p> <p><b>Criteria:</b> <b><u>Purpose</u></b></p>	<p>Living in Wisconsin <a href="http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/living_in_wisconsin_top10.html">http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/living_in_wisconsin_top10.html</a></p> <p>Using the criteria on the board related to <b>Purpose</b>, does this site's purpose make it a good choice for information on this topic?</p> <p>Why or why not?</p> <p>1999-2000 Wisconsin Blue Book <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/bb/index.html">http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/bb/index.html</a></p> <p>Using the criteria on the board related to <b>Purpose</b>, does this site's purpose make it a good choice for information on this topic?</p> <p>Why or why not?</p>
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