

Web Page Evaluation Checklist

1. Go to Google and search a controversial topic, such as:
prions danger or **nuclear armageddon** or **"stem cells" abortion**
2. Use this Checklist to evaluate some of the search results.

	Title of page you are evaluating:	Title of page you are evaluating:
1. Look at the URL		
Personal page or site?	<input type="checkbox"/> ~ or %, or users, members, or people	<input type="checkbox"/> ~ or %, or users, members, or people
What type of domain is it? Appropriate for the content?	<input type="checkbox"/> .com <input type="checkbox"/> org/nē <input type="checkbox"/> .edu <input type="checkbox"/> gov/mil/us <input type="checkbox"/> non-US _____ <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> .com <input type="checkbox"/> org/nē <input type="checkbox"/> .edu <input type="checkbox"/> gov/mil/us <input type="checkbox"/> non-US _____ <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
Published by entity that makes sense? Does it match the name of the site?	Publisher or Domain Name entity:	Publisher or Domain Name entity:
2. Scan the perimeter of the page		
Who wrote the page?	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Name:
Dated?	Date _____ Current enough?	Date _____ Current enough?
Credentials on this subject? (Truncate back the URL if no useful links.)	Evidence?	Evidence?
3. Examine the content		
Sources well documented?		
Complete? If 2nd-hand information, is it not altered or forged?		
Links to more resources? Do they work?		
Evidence of bias?		
4. What do others say?		
Who links to it? Hint: In Google search: <i>link:all.or.part.of.url</i>	Many or few links? Opinions expressed?	Many or few links? Opinions expressed?
Is the page rated well in a directory? www.lii.org or infomine.ucr.edu or about.com		
Which blogs link to it? What do they say? blogsearch.google.com		
Look up the author in Google		
5. Does it all add up?		
Why was the page put on the Web?	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform <input type="checkbox"/> Persuade <input type="checkbox"/> Sell Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Inform <input type="checkbox"/> Persuade <input type="checkbox"/> Sell Other: _____
Possibly ironic? Satire or parody?		

BOTTOM LINE: Is the web page appropriate for your purpose?