

# Unit One - Terms and Tech

## Internet Assignment

“Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet!”

Web sites are all created with a purpose in mind by some person or agency or entity. Anyone can put anything on the web for pennies in just a few minutes. Your task is always to distinguish between the reliable and the questionable. Not all web sites are good sources of valid and reliable information. It is essential that you learn how to evaluate web sites to determine whether or not the information presented is useful and can be believed. Consider the following points:

- Who wrote it/published it?  
Educational institutions and government agencies have a vested interest in presenting high-quality, accurate information. However, other individuals or groups may not have the same values.
- Is the information current, accurate, and complete?  
Sometimes it matters if the information is current and sometimes it doesn't. Sometimes the information found is accurate as of the date it was written but is not accurate now. Know when currency is important. If the issue is legal you probably want recent information. Sometimes information is current and accurate but not complete. Undated factual or statistical information is no better than anonymous information – don't use it!
- Is the information unbiased?  
There is nothing wrong with commercial, advertising, advocacy, educational, marketing, or personal internet sites. However, all sites should make clear their purpose and bias. It should not be hard to determine the goal or purpose of the site. If you can't figure it out, be wary.
- Quality of writing.  
The author of a web site may not be Mark Twain or Hemingway but the writing on the web site should be grammatically correct, free from spelling errors, and at least of fairly high quality. High quality writing conveys the meaning of the text clearly and easily.

**Identify two internet web sites that are health care related. Complete a Critical Evaluation worksheet for each site.**



## Critical Evaluation of a Web Site

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. What type of connection do you have to the internet?  
· \_\_\_\_\_ Dial-in connection: modem speed (circle one) 28.8·33.6·56k  
· \_\_\_\_\_ Direct connection: (circle one) 56k·DSL·T1·T3·Broadband/cable ·other
2. What web browser are you using?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the URL of the Web page you are evaluating?  
http://\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name of the site?  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Part 1: Technical and visual aspects of the page</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Does the page take a long time to load?		
Is the spelling correct on the page?		
Are there headings and subheadings on the page? · If so, are they helpful?		
Is the page "signed" by the author?		
Is the author's email address included?		
Is there a date on the page that tells you when it was last updated? · If so, is it current?		
Is the format standard and readable with your browser?		
On supporting pages, is there a link back to the home page?		
Are the links clearly visible and annotated or explanatory?		
Are there any "dead" links – links that have expired or moved?		
Do any pictures or photographs on the page add to the information? · Can you be sure that a picture or sound has not been edited?		

### Summary of Part One

Using the data you have collected above, write a short statement explaining why you would or would not recommend the site to a friend for use with a project.

**Health Occupations Professional Essentials**

<b>Part 2: Content</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Is the title of the page indicative of the content?		
Is the purpose of the page indicated on the home page?		
When was the document created?		
If there is no date, is the information current?		
Does up-to-date information matter for your purpose?		
Is the information useful for your purpose?		
Is the material in depth enough for your needs? Is the material too in depth?		
Would it have been easier to get the information somewhere else?		
Would information from somewhere else have been different? · Why or why not?		
Did the web site lead you to other sources, both print and Web, that were useful?		
Is a bibliography of print sources included?		
Does the information appear biased? (one-sided, critical of opposing views, etc)		
Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else?		
Is the site an editorial that is trying to argue a position?		
Is the site sponsored by an organization that advocates a certain philosophy?		
Is the site trying to sell you a product?		
Do most of the pictures supplement the content of the page?		

<b>Part 3: Authority</b> As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Who created the page?		
What organization is the person affiliated with?		
Have you heard of this organization before?		
Can you find any other sites that link themselves to this page? Can you tell if other experts in the field think this is a reputable page?		
Perform a "link:" search for this page – are other reputable sites found?		
Does the domain (.edu, .com, .gov, .org) of the page influence your evaluation?		
Are you positive the information is valid and reliable? · What can you do to validate the information?		
Are you satisfied the information is useful for your purposes? · If not, what can you do next?		
Do a search on the creator of the page. Do you find additional information to indicate that the author is reliable and the information is valid?		

**Narrative Evaluation**

Looking at all of the data you have collected above while evaluating this site, explain why or why not this site is (or is not) valid for your purposes. Include the aspects of technical content, authenticity, authority, bias, and subject content.