

****THIS ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN YOUR OWN WORD DOCUMENT AND EMAILED TO MRS. HAYTHE BY FRIDAY JANUARY 29, 2016.****

WHY? Rationale for Evaluating What You Find on the Web –

PURPOSE, AUDIENCE, VALIDITY

The World Wide Web can be a great place to accomplish research on many topics. But putting documents or pages on the web is easy, cheap or free, unregulated, and unmonitored (at least in the USA). There is a famous Steiner cartoon published in the *New Yorker* (July 5, 1993) with two dogs sitting before a terminal looking at a computer screen; one says to the other "On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog." The great wealth that the Internet has brought to so much of society is the ability for people to express themselves, find one another, exchange ideas, discover possible peers worldwide they never would have otherwise met, and, through hypertext links in web pages, suggest so many other people's ideas and personalities to anyone who comes and clicks. There are some real "dogs" out there, but there's also great treasure.

Therein lies the rationale for evaluating carefully whatever you find on the Web. The burden is on you - the reader - to establish the validity, authorship, timeliness, and integrity of what you find.

You are responsible for evaluating THREE WEBSITES for this assignment! For each of the three websites, you must include (at least) three paragraphs of criteria listed below (purpose, audience, validity)

Web Site - Name: _____

Web Site One - URL: _____

Analysis of Web Site Purpose Questions (Following the guidelines below, this entire response should be in paragraph form. You may use more than one paragraph as you see fit)

1. What do you believe is the purpose of the site you visited and is it clearly stated? (answer in 2 or more sentences)
2. If the purpose is not clearly stated, what information provides you with a clue regarding the intended purpose? (answer in 2 or more sentences)
3. What could have been done differently to make the purpose more clear? (answer in 2 or more sentences)

Analysis of Web Site Audience Questions (Following the guidelines below, this entire response should be in paragraph form. You may use more than one paragraph as you see fit)

1. Who is the intended audience of the site you visited and does the website make clear who the intended audience is? (answer in 2 or more sentences)
2. If not, what information presented provided you with clues about the intended audience? (answer in 2 or more sentences)
3. What could have been done differently to make the intended audience more evident? (answer in 2 or more sentences)

Analysis of Web Site Validity Questions (Following the guidelines below, this entire response should be in paragraph form. You may use more than one paragraph as you see fit)

Hint: For these questions, it may be helpful to investigate tabs called "about, about us, author, resources" links or tabs.

1. Who is creating or updating this website and what are their credentials? (answer in 2 or more sentences)
2. Can you tell when the site has last been updated? Is there a date listed? Are any links broken? Does information still seem current? (answer in 2 or more sentences)
3. Are any references listed for information on this site? If not, are there similar sites that do have more current and updated information? If so, what are those sites and how do you know that information is more up-to-date? (answer in 2 or more sentences)