**Evaluating Website Information**

**Ask: Who? What? Where? When? Why?   
Use these five questions to critically evaluate an information resource.**  
WHO? Who is writing the information?

* Can you tell who is writing the information?
* Can you tell what authority, credentials, qualifications or affiliations the author has?
* Can you tell who is sponsoring the website? Is contact information available?

WHAT? WHAT is the purpose of this website or information? What is it about?

* What type of information is included? How detailed is the information?
* How does this information compare with print resources?
* Is the information accurate and objective or is it misleading or advocating a cause?
* Is the text free of spelling or typing errors?
* Are the links to other related resources on the Web?

WHAT type of website or resource is this?  
Check the domain to see what type of website it is?

* A business page for marketing (.com)?
* Another type of organization such as news (.com)?
* An advocacy page promoting a point of view (.org)?
* An informational page sponsored by an institution (.edu)?
* An informational page sponsored by a government agency (.gov)?

WHERE? WHERE is the information from?

* Where is the website located (what is the url)?
* Where does the information come from? Does it include references or a bibliography?
* Is the website professionally designed?
* Can you figure out how to navigate the site to find what you are looking for?

WHEN? WHEN was this page or resource created or updated?

* WHEN was this page created? When was it last updated?
* Can you tell if the information is still current?
* Are the links to the other websites still current? Do they still work?

WHY? WHY was this webpage or resource created?

* Does the page include a mission or a purpose statement?
* Is the sponsor or author trying to share information? Or convince you about something?
* Or try to sell you something?

OTHER CONSIDERATION:

* Typographical errors, Author indicated, Author qualifications indicated? Bias evident?