

Butler Area Senior High School Library
Web Page Evaluation Criteria

AUTHORITY –

Is the author's name listed?

Is there biographical information about the author?

Educational or professional background information?

Is he/she an expert on the topic?

Is he/she a teacher or professor of the subject?

Did the author provide a bibliographic list of the sources used?

Does the author provide contact information? More than an e-mail address?

Helpful Hints:

- *Look for links like "about us", "our philosophy", "contact us", etc. on the home page.*
- *Do a Google search on the author's name to see if any additional information can be found.*

PUBLISH/PURPOSE –

Did the author post the Web page or is it part of a larger site?

What is the domain name?

.edu – educational institution

.net – network group

.gov – government site

.com – commercial site

.org – non-profit organization

.mil – military

Is the domain relevant to the type of information the page contains?

Why was the site posted on the Internet? What is its purpose?

To inform

To explain

To persuade

To sell

To share/disclose

To entertain (satire, parody)

Helpful Hints: A personal Web page often contains a tilde (~), percentage mark (%), or the word, users or members. The domain might include an Internet Service Provider, like AOL or MSN, or a Web-based service like Angelfire, Tripod, Geocities, etc.

BIAS/SLANT –

Does the information represent a special interest?

Does the domain name suggest a special interest group?

Helpful Hints: Biased information is not bad information, but often represents one side or opinion. This should be noted in your research.

CURRENCY/MAINTENANCE –

Is a copyright date present?

Is a *date created* or *date last updated* available?

Are the links active?

Is statistical information dated?

Helpful Hints: This information is often found on the bottom of the home page. A last updated stamp indicates that something on the page was changed. This could be aesthetic, or minor changes, but not necessarily the information.

NOTES –

