The internet is expanding each day. There is no agency that reviews the accuracy of information posted on websites, so it is up to us to determine if a website contains accurate information. Use the following factors to help in this process:

**Authority**

Y  N  Can you easily identify the author? (Check “About us” or “Contact us” on the home page.
Y  N  Is the author qualified to write about this topic? What are their credentials?
Y  N  Is there information on the home page about the author and/or website sponsor?

**Accuracy**

Y  N  Did the author include a list of sources used to create the page?
Y  N  Is the information on the page free of grammatical, spelling and typographical errors?
Y  N  Does the page agree with other information that you've already found?
Y  N  If this page has charts or graphs, are they clearly labeled and easy to read?
Y  N  Is this information useful for your purpose?

**Objectivity**

Y  N  Does this page provide unbiased information?
Y  N  Does this page try to persuade you to a particular viewpoint?
Y  N  Does this page try to sell anything?
Y  N  If there is advertising on the page, is it clearly set apart from the informational content? 
(Advertising included to offset cost of keeping the page on the internet is okay.)

**Currency**

Y  N  Is the information current?
Y  N  Can you identify when this page was written or updated?

**Coverage**

Y  N  Does the site include a table of contents or index?
Y  N  Is there an indication that the site is under construction or completed?
Y  N  Does this site include information that answers your information need?

If you answered more “yes” than “no” responses above, and feel comfortable with the site, use the note taker and MLA Citation Maker below while using the site:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MLA FORMAT - WEBSITES</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author's Name.</td>
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**NOTES:**
Domain suffix

Sites on the Web are grouped by their URLs according to the type of organization providing the information on the site. For example, any commercial enterprise or corporation that has a Web site will have a domain suffix of .com, which means it is a commercial entity. The domain suffix provides you with a clue about the purpose or audience of a Web site. The domain suffix might also give you a clue about the geographic origin of a Web site.

Here follows a list of the most common domain suffixes and the types of organizations that would use them.

.com
Commercial site. The information provided by commercial interests is generally going to shed a positive light on the product it promotes. While this information might not necessarily be false, you might be getting only part of the picture. Remember, there's a monetary incentive behind every commercial site in providing you with information, whether it is for good public relations or to sell you a product outright.

.edu
Educational Institution. Sites using this domain name are schools ranging from kindergarten to higher education. If you take a look at your school's URL you'll notice that it ends with the domain .edu. Information from sites within this domain must be examined very carefully. If it is from a department or research center at a educational institution, it can generally be taken as credible. However, students' personal Web sites are not usually monitored by the school even though they are on the school's server and use the .edu domain.

.gov
Government. If you come across a site with this domain, then you're viewing a federal government site. All branches of the United States federal government use this domain. Information such as Census statistics, Congressional hearings, and Supreme Court rulings would be included in sites with this domain. The information is considered to be from a credible source.

.org
Traditionally a non-profit organization. Organizations such as the American Red Cross or PBS (Public Broadcasting System) use this domain suffix. Generally, the information in these types of sites is credible and unbiased, but there are examples of organizations that strongly advocate specific points of view over others, such as the National Right to Life Committee and Planned Parenthood. You probably want to give this domain a closer scrutiny these days. Some commercial interests might be the ultimate sponsors of a site with this suffix.

.mil
Military. This domain suffix is used by the various branches of the Armed Forces of the United States.

.net
Network. You might find any kind of site under this domain suffix. It acts as a catch-all for sites that don't fit into any of the preceding domain suffixes. Information from these sites should be given careful scrutiny.

Country domain suffixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>.au</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>.mx</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
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<tr>
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