

For this project, you must research information on the internet and in text. It is VERY important that you DO NOT ASSUME that every word you read is true!

This activity is designed to help you look at information more carefully so that you can have an idea how honest the reporting is. It is OK to cite a biased source as long as you either believe their data collection methods to be sound or you balance their information with information from groups who argue the other side.

ACTIVITY 1

1) Please go to this website for starters:

<http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic32.htm>

Click on 5 of the “misleading websites” so you can get a sense of some purposely fake sites. Also check out two more of my favorite fake websites:

www.martinlutherking.org (Created by White Supremacists)

<http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/> (Created by those who want to save a tree octopus)

2) Read the section “Criteria For Evaluation”.

On a separate piece of paper:

- a) write the title for each Criteria (Authority, Objectivity, etc.)
- b) write the two questions you find to be the most important for assessing each criteria

3) Read the section “Finding Website Evaluation Information

- a) write each of the bold section headings
- b) summarize the important points of each section

ACTIVITY 2

4) Open the following page: <http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/instruct/evaluate/evaluating.html>

5) Scan the “Criteria”, “Rationale”, and “How Can I Tell?” for each of the categories:
Authority, Coverage, Objectivity, Accuracy, Currency (NOT meaning \$\$\$)

Hint 1: The “Criteria” is the question you should be asking yourself when you read a page.

Hint 2: The “Rationale” is why you should be asking this question in the first place.

Hint 3: The “How Can I Tell?” is what/where you should look to answer the question.

Hint 4: If you wish to practice, you may scroll to the bottom to “Let’s practice...”

The following sites will be helpful in researching our project topic:

Government Sites:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/>

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR):

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA):
<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/pesticides.html>

Citizen Action Sites:

Pesticide Action Network-North America (PANNA):

<http://www.panna.org/>

Californians For Pesticide Reform (CPR):

<http://www.pesticidereform.org/>

Pesticide Watch:

<http://www.pesticidewatch.org/>

6) Select one Government site and one Citizen site to apply the criteria from the site listed above in step #4:

- a) Open a Word document.
- b) Cut and paste the URL of the site you are reviewing.
- c) **Bold** the names of each category (**Authority, Coverage**, etc).
- d) Cut and paste each of the questions below each category heading.
- e) Use the "How can I tell?" to guide you in finding the answer to each question.
- f) Answer each question using a different font than the cut and pasted questions.
(In other words, MAKE THE ANSWERS STAND OUT FROM THE QUESTIONS!)
- g) Write one paragraph explaining whether your website is a valid source or not.
USE EVIDENCE from the answers to your criteria questions in support.
- h) Repeat for your second website (again, make sure one is .gov & one is .org).
- i) Put your name in the title of your document and make sure you use the .doc file ext.
- j) Email document to me.

EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO HAND IN **THEIR OWN COPIES** ACTIVITIES #1 & #2!