

WEBSITE EVALUATION ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

Please discuss your evaluation of one of the pairs of websites listed below in a brief essay, 1-2 pages, double-spaced. Use the presentation and handouts on searching & evaluating information resources located under Unit Documents, Module 3 (Internet Searching Guide or the CRAAP Test from California State University, in Chico, CA).

In your essay, discuss the site's quality, noting specific evidence that supports your argument. You should write 3 paragraphs, one discussing each site individually, and the third comparing and contrasting the pair.

1. Below are listed 2 pairs of websites. Evaluate both sites in one pair.

Pair 1:

Dihydrogen Monoxide – DHMO Homepage - www.dhmo.org

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - <http://www.epa.gov/>

Pair 2:

Martin Luther King, Jr. - <http://www.martinlutherking.org/>

civilrights.org - <http://www.civilrights.org/>

Your response should also include whether:

- The site biased or objective?
- The site is what you expected from the title and information given in the URL?

You are expected to look at each site in depth and to look for features such as “about” links or links to other organizations and information about the creator(s) and with whom they may be affiliated. Keep in mind that in each of the sets I’ve given for evaluation, one is a reputable site and the other is either heavily biased or satirical.

If you see a quote from a well-known source on a website, follow up on it. Do not assume that just because a well-know source is quoted that it means that a site is valid. Many quotes are often taken out of context. Many sites will also go to great lengths to “look” legitimate and have credibility by linking to other sites that are credible and valid.

Keep in mind that even accrediting organizations need to be researched as well. A graduate student earned a degree from what she thought was an accredited online institution which later proved to be a diploma mill that had created its own accrediting agency. Her degree was useless, her credibility was damaged, and she was scammed out of a large sum of money.

When writing your essay, be sure to use correct grammar and spelling. Use grammar & spell check, but do not rely only on those tools; you should always proofread your work. The recommended word-processing application is Microsoft Word 2003, but if you use another, save your document as a Rich Text Format (.rtf).