



Website Evaluation **BOOTCAMP**

Free resources to help teach your students
how to effectively evaluate a website.

Evaluating Purpose

Determining the purpose of a website helps you figure out what is the intent behind the information. A website can have great design and be well-written, but if there is bias, or it does not relate to the context of your assignment, it may not be appropriate to use.

Here are some questions you can ask when evaluating the purpose of a website:

Is the publisher or author trying to sell you something? Are there ads?

Who or what is behind the content? Can you identify an author?

- *Tip:* Try reading the “About Us” or mission statement to learn more



THE DAILY CURRENT Like 13k HOME POLITICS TECH ENTERTAINMENT

The Nissan NV Passenger 

Politics Google™ Custom Search

Egypt Issues Arrest Warrant For Jon Stewart Tweet 1,438 Like 38k

Apr. 03, 2013

 The Egyptian government has issued an arrest warrant for American comedian Jon Stewart, accusing him of blasphemy and fomenting "anti-Egyptian" sentiment.

The charges come just two days after Stewart used *The Daily Show* to blast Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi over his harassment of Bassem Youssef, an Egyptian satirist critical of his government.

Youssef is the host of the wildly popular *El Bernameg (The Program)*.

The Daily Cur Like

13,392 people like The Daily C

If your resource is credible and authoritative, consider its role in the context of your paper:

Timeliness	Audience
<p>Does the publication date impact your final assignment?</p> <p>Current event topics would require recent stories, while older sources may be better for historical assignments</p>	<p>Who is the target audience?</p> <p>Resources that are meant for children are likely not appropriate for research. Instructors may <i>require</i> scholarly sources.</p>
Depth of Information	Breadth of Information
<p>Does the source provide deep, thorough analysis of a specific topic?</p>	<p>Does the source focus broadly on a number of topics?</p>

Evaluating Accuracy

The accuracy of information found online can vary. Many people publish information that is not true or properly verified on purpose, or because they do not know any better. If you are unsure of a source’s credibility, you should always take the time to evaluate it for accuracy.

Here are some steps you should take when evaluating the accuracy of a website:



HUFF POST SCIENCE

Volcano Extinction? Ancient Eruptions Tied To Species Die-Off That Let Dinosaurs Flourish

Posted: 03/22/2013 9:09 am EDT

Like 415 people like this.



By: Tanya Lewis, LiveScience Staff Writer
Published: 03/21/2013 02:11 PM EDT on LiveScience

Massive volcanic eruptions may have led to the extermination of half of Earth's species some 200 million years ago, a new study suggests.

The release of gases from giant eruptions caused climate change that led to the End-Triassic Extinction, the widespread loss of land and sea species that made way for the [rise of the dinosaurs](http://www.livescience.com/22116-dinosaur-diversity-rocky-mountain-rise.html), the research says. The new study, published today (March 21) in the journal *Science*, shows that a set of major eruptions spanning from what is now New Jersey to Morocco occurred very close to the time of the extinction.

Scientists suspected previously that such volcanic activity and the resultant climate change were responsible for this major extinction and at least four others. But researchers weren't able to constrain the dates of the eruptions and extinctions well

Does the author provide evidence for claims made in the article?

Does the author link to or reference other credible studies, articles, or other sources? Some articles will also have works cited lists.



“[rise of the dinosaurs](http://www.livescience.com/22116-dinosaur-diversity-rocky-mountain-rise.html)” links to <http://www.livescience.com/22116-dinosaur-diversity-rocky-mountain-rise.html>

If your resource is accurate, you should still consider these other factors:

Errors	Review Process
<p>Is the content full of spelling and grammatical errors? If so, it might be a sign that the author was not careful when evaluating the accuracy of information found during his/her research. Rushed writing could imply rushed researching!</p>	<p>Has the article been reviewed? Many journal articles are “peer-reviewed” by a group of experts. Many newspaper articles are reviewed by editors. The review process helps to ensure the accuracy of a source.</p>

Evaluating Relevance

Once you have established the purpose, authority, and accuracy of your source, you should also make sure that the information found there is relevant to your topic and your research assignment.

Here are some steps you should take when evaluating the relevance of a website:

1. Read through the article. Does the article answer one of your research questions? Does it add supporting detail to your main ideas?
2. The content does not have to agree with your thesis statement to be relevant! But it should relate to your topic.
3. Does the source focus on your topic? For example, if your research topic is related to technology, did it come from a technology- focused website, or a technology section of a newspaper?



Smartphone Maps Guide Users Through Billions of Miles Per Year

Published 10:14 am, Monday, March 4, 2013

According to one [Google study](#), 95 percent of smartphone users have used their online map or GPS functions, and 75 percent rely on their navigation systems to consistently look up directions.

These new-age maps, in contrast to their predecessors, are so much more than a guide for getting from Point A to Point B. They can steer you, step-by-step, to any destination via car, bike, public transportation or footpath, avoiding traffic jams and construction zones along the way.

On the digital mapping landscape, there are three forefront competitors leading the way: Nokia, Apple and Google. With new smartphones hitting the market, including the iPhone5, Lumia810 and GalaxyS3, map features are steadily becoming more technologically advanced and user-involved.

Nokia was one of the earliest providers of digital mapping technology with the introduction of its Smart2Go application some five years back. The company's most recent mapping feat is highlighted in the Nokia Lumia 810 model—Nokia's first Windows 8 phone on the T-Mobile network. The Lumia 810 offers Here, formerly called Nokia Maps, which includes free and preloaded apps to enhance the digital mapping experience. Here employs satellite images, offline capabilities, public transit information, turn-by-turn directions, worldwide maps and voice prompts (with a selection of diverse downloadable accents and languages, no less). You can use Nokia Drive to set up custom speed alerts to let you know when



If your resource seems to be relevant, you should still consider these other factors:

Timeliness	Audience
<p>Are there other sources out there that might be more relevant to your research? You should look at other sources just to be sure.</p>	<p>Who is the intended audience for this source? Is it too advanced or too simple? Take a look at the vocabulary used in the articles—this will help you tell whether or not this source is appropriate for your research.</p>