

Checking out websites



Nowadays, students often use the internet for school work or homework. If we need information for an essay or project, we can find it online quickly and easily.

However, there are millions of websites. Some of them have accurate information, but some do not. This is why we should evaluate a website before we accept what it is telling us.

Imagine you have found an article that seems useful. Here are some tips to help you evaluate it.

- **First**, check the URL. It may tell you something about the website, its creator, its purpose and its country of origin.
- **Then**, think about the purpose of the writing. Is it to inform you or to teach you, or is it to promote something to you? For example, if the article is telling you all about a famous politician and how important and amazing they are, be careful. Its real purpose may be to make you vote for them, so the information in it may not be objective.
- **Next**, check the writer's credentials. Look for a link to their 'About me' page so you can read more about their education and experience. Is he or she a professional in this area? Do you think this person is qualified to write about the subject?
- **After that**, check to see whether any information has been taken from another website. If it has, go to the original source to check that the information hasn't been changed.
- **Also**, look at the date of publication. Old articles can be unreliable because they miss out the latest evidence, or because the situation has recently changed.
- **Finally**, weigh everything up and decide if you trust the information.

Unfortunately, there is no way to be 100% sure that a site is trustworthy, so you need to consider all these factors and then decide whether you trust it. If you publish your own writing on a blog or website, some of these tips may help improve your own writing too. Give links and references to your information sources, and mention your own credentials and experience.

Top Tips for writing

1. Use a catchy title to get people interested.
2. Start by introducing the topic. Give some background information.
3. Then, explain the possible problem.
4. Use link words to give information step by step. Use bullet points to present the steps clearly or, alternatively, write them in a paragraph.