

# Evaluate your sources

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# Evaluate your sources

- You are surrounded by information, but how can you know if the information that you have found is reliable?
- Learn to evaluate the quality of information that you can find on the web, in the books, magazines and television.
- Do not believe in everything you read, try to find and compare different information resources.

# Evaluate your sources

## Check the author

- Is the author real?
- Does he/she have knowledge about the subject?
- What are their credentials (education, affiliation, experience, etc.)?
- Who is the author, publisher, sponsor of the information?
- Are there any contact details to author or the publisher?

## Check the date

- How recent is this information?
- When was it published?
- Has it been revised or updated?
- Are the links functional/broken?



# Evaluate your sources

## Consider the source

- Investigate the website, it's mission statement and contact info.
- Is this a primary, secondary or tertiary source of information?
- What is the reason for this information to exist? (Teach, sell, entertain...)

## Check the bibliography

- Is author citing any sources?
- Is a bibliography provided citing the sources used?
- Are these sources credible?

# Evaluate your sources

## Read beyond

- Do not focus on headlines and titles, read the whole story.
- Look for other articles on similar subject.
- Are there another reliable source that could verify this information?

## Think

- Is it a fact, fiction or an opinion?
- Does the author endorse political or religious views that could affect objectivity?
- Are alternative views presented and addressed?
- Does the author's language show signs of bias?
- Are there spelling or grammar mistakes in the writing?

# Evaluate your sources

## Check the URL

- Does the information come from a school, business, or company website?
  - Educational institution (.edu)
  - Government agency (.gov)
  - Commercial supplier (.com)
  - Non-profit organization (.org)

Fake news websites often look exactly like websites of real news agencies.

Check url:

Real: abcnews.go.com

Fake: abcnews.com.co

# Evaluate your sources

- **Goose Thinking Of Migrating Home A Couple Weeks Early To Avoid The Crowds**

<https://local.theonion.com/goose-thinking-of-migrating-home-a-couple-weeks-early-t-1833664805>

- **Associations between body composition and helminths of lesser snow geese during winter and spring migration**

[https://www.sciencedirect-com.ejournals.um.edu.mt/science/article/pii/S0020751912001488](https://www.sciencedirect.com.ejournals.um.edu.mt/science/article/pii/S0020751912001488)

- **UM Parking regulations**

<https://bit.ly/2uNeCsc>

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## References

- Lyons, K. (2019). Start your research: Evaluate your info. Retrieved from <https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/writing/evaluate>
- Wadson, K. (1019). LibGuides: Evaluate your sources. Retrieved from <https://bowvalleycollege.libguides.com/research-help/evaluation>





# Thank you for your attention!

For further information you are welcome to contact  
us by calling on **2340 2541**  
or by e-mail **[library@um.edu.mt](mailto:library@um.edu.mt)**