Evaluating Open Web Sources for Research
Evaluating Web Sources

Why is this source reliable?
Thing of 3 reasons.
Evaluating Web Sources

**Who** created it?

Is this person (or organization) a qualified, reputable, expert? Is she **authoritative** (reliable)?
Evaluating Web Sources

What is the information like?

Is it **accurate**, giving complete **coverage**, well-written, well-organized? Does it cite its sources? Are those sources reliable?
Evaluating Web Sources

Where is the information from?

Where is the site stored? Remember that just having a page stored in a university does not mean the university backs your information.
Evaluating Web Sources

Why was the information/site created?

Was the goal to present information objectively in a balanced way? Do the presenters have an identifiable political, ideological, or commercial goal that might slant their information?
Evaluating Web Sources

When was it created?

Is it **current**? (sometimes currency/recent is not important)
Citations

What is a CITATION.
Can you explain it?
Citations

A citation is a description of all the information you need to tell where an idea or quotation came from, to be able to judge the reliability of the information, and to find that source again.
What kind of information goes in a citation?
List everything you can think of...
What kind of information goes in a citation?

a. author
b. title
c. place of publication
d. publisher (and more about where it can be found)
e. date of publication
   f. medium (type of publication), like Print, Web, File, Film, CD-ROM, DVD, etc.
g. date you found it (electronic resources)
h. web address (URL) or permanent web identifier (d.o.i.)
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