

3 Important Criteria to Use when Evaluating Free Websites

1) AUTHORITY

The author/creator of the website.

We need to know who is responsible for putting together a website. We need to know if the website has been created by somebody who is credible and has the expertise to create a website on the given topic.

Essays on Anti Smoking

<http://www.smokingsection.com/issues1.html>



Question 1: Examine the authority on the “Essays on Anti Smoking” webpage. Who is the creator of this webpage? What kind of contact information could they have provided in addition to their email address?

2) ACCURACY

The reliability of the web resource.

In order for the information on a website to be trustworthy, we must determine its accuracy. Since websites are often unmonitored, and a set of standards aren't in place, we have to be critical of what we are reading. We have to ask if it seems questionable, or contrary to what we already know.

GenoChoice: Create your Child Online

<http://www.genochoice.com>



Question 2: Examine the accuracy of the “GenoChoice” website. Do you think this website is for real or is it fake? List one or two examples on this webpage where the information looks like it could have been made-up.

3) OBJECTIVITY

The goals and intentions of the author/creator

Because the internet is so popular, often the objectives of the author/creator are to promote a personal opinion or point of view. Also, most free websites are commercially driven through advertising, which can also influence the nature or the true purpose of a website.

National Right to Life

<http://www.nrlc.org>



Question 3: Examine the objectivity on the “National Right to Life” website. If you were writing a paper on “the history of abortion in the U.S.,” why is this website not a good one to use all on its own?
