

# Evaluating Websites in 5 Easy Steps

How do you know if a website is authoritative and good enough to use in your research?  
Follow these simple steps.

## Accuracy

Is the information on the website correct?

- Is the source a trusted and credible source of information on the topic?
- Can the information be verified elsewhere?

## Authority

Who sponsors the website?

- Is the author accredited or endorsed by a reputable organization?
- Is there helpful contact information?

## Currency

When was the information produced or last updated?

- Is there a copyright or publication date?
- Is any of the information out of date?

## Purpose

Is the information objective and unbiased or is it intended to persuade?

- Does the site link only to similar points of view?
- Does the site provide a comprehensive scope of thought and theory on the subject?

## Commercialization

Is this a sponsored website that is trying to sell something?

- Are there any fees involved in using the information?
- Do you have to submit personal information?

*Remember to always check with your instructor to verify if websites are permitted before using the Internet to conduct your research.*

# More Research Tools

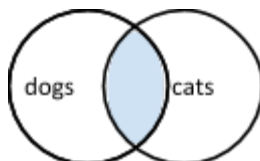
Boolean Operators help you to manipulate your search by broadening or narrowing the results. Combine key terms with AND, OR, NOT and NEAR to refine your search plan and uncover different resources.

## Boolean or Logical Operators

### AND

dogs AND cats

Focuses your search for results that mention both cats and dogs. The more words you entered connected by **AND**, the fewer documents you get. **effect=narrowing**



### OR

dogs OR cats

Searches for all possible combinations of one or both. Results mentioning 1) cats and dogs, 2) only dogs and 3) only cats. The more words you entered connected by **OR**, the more documents you get. - **effect=broadening**



### NOT

dogs NOT cats

Eliminates unwanted results. Finds results that mention dogs but not cats. By using **NOT**, you will be excluding documents. **effect=narrowing**



### NEAR

dogs NEAR cats

Searches results for instances terms are close to each other, within 16 words in the same document, reducing the number of results. **effect=narrowing**

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