

## ***Evaluating Web sources***

**CAUTION:** If the sponsorship and the authorship of a site are both unclear, be extremely suspicious of the site.

### **AUTHORSHIP**

- Is there an author? You may need to do some clicking and scrolling to find the author's name. If you are on an internal page of a site, for example, you may need to go to the home page or click on an "about this site" link to learn the name of the author.
- If there is an author, can you tell whether he or she is knowledgeable and credible? When the author's qualifications aren't listed on the site itself, look for links to a home page, which may provide evidence of the author's interests and expertise.

### **SPONSORSHIP**

- Who, if anyone, sponsors the site? The sponsor of a site is often named and described on the home page.
- What does the domain name tell you? The domain name often specifies the type of group hosting the site: commercial (.com), educational (.edu), nonprofit (.org), governmental (.gov), military (.mil), or network (.net).

### **PURPOSE AND AUDIENCE**

- Why was the site created: to argue a position? to sell a product? to inform readers?
- Who is the site's intended audience? If you do not fit the audience profile, is information on the site still relevant to your topic?

### **CURRENCY**

- How current is the site? Check for the date of publication or the latest update.
- How current are the site's links? If many of the links no longer work, the site may be too dated for your purposes.