Can I use this Website❓

A quick guide to evaluating Internet sources

- ### Who is responsible for the content?

It's important to keep the author of web published information in mind. There are no established guidelines about who can create a website or publish to a webpage. This means you have to find out if the author is considered an expert in the field you're researching.

- Do a quick Google search on the author and find out their credentials
  - If there's no author listed is there an organization listed?
    Find out what the organization is about
  - Domain names can give you clues about the author
    .edu and .gov sites are your best bets for credible authors

- ### How old is the information?

When doing research you want to make sure that you have the most current information on your subject as possible. New discoveries, theories, and ideas happen every day and may reshape the way your research topic is thought about so make sure you're up to date on the latest scholarship.

- The date of publication can be found either at the top of the page
  or at the bottom after the text.
  - There is often a date given for the last page update
    at the bottom of the webpage
  - The copyright date listed at the bottom will tell you
    when the site as a whole was created
- Broken links are often an indication that the page has not been updated

- ## What's said and how is it said?

A scholarly source should be written from an unbiased view points and should reference other works of scholarship within its body of text. The text should be clearly written and free from grammatical mistakes and spelling errors. The information should be aimed at college level scholarship.

- Are there citations to outside sources?
- Is there a bias present (a clear idea on one side of an issue)?
- Is the writing clear and free from spelling and grammatical issues?

- ## What does the site look like?

A scholarly web resource should look professional. There should not be advertisements, loud colors, music, pop up ads, etc.

- Are there advertisements?
- Links to non-related web pages?
- A general cluttered feeling to the page
- Background music or videos playing?