Evaluating **web** sources

You don't always have to use library resources to find credible information on your topic. But when you do find sources online, use your **critical thinking skills** to evaluate them.

1 Purpose & Audience

Think about: What's the point? Why is this site here?

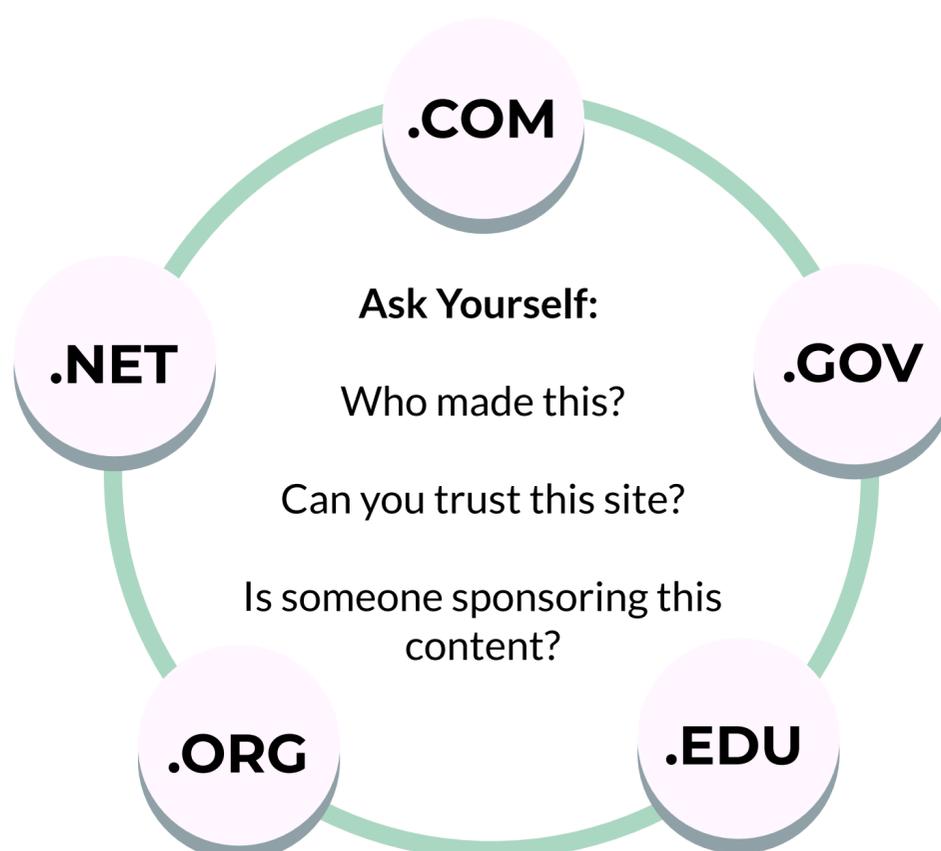Who was this site/information intended for?

Is this site trying to:

INFORM	SELL	PERSUADE	ENTERTAIN

Is it for or against something? Giving facts or opinions? Why? And for who?

2 Context or Source

Think about: What are the facts? Where are they coming from?

Can you verify the information elsewhere? Is it current?

.COM

.NET

.GOV

Ask Yourself:

Who made this?

Can you trust this site?

Is someone sponsoring this content?

.ORG

.EDU

Just because it is a .gov or .edu does not mean it is 100% reliable or accurate information. Look beyond the website name to decide if they are credible.

3 Accuracy of Evidence

Think about: How is it packaged? Can you verify the information elsewhere or with another source?

STATISTICS

- government websites
- surveys
- news & magazines

OPINION

- blogs
- social media
- news & magazines

RESEARCH

- university websites
- Google Scholar
- quotes in a source

REPORTS

- government websites
- professional associations
- company websites