

**Writing Skills III**

**Thinking about  
Information Sources**

**Internet Resources  
&  
Magazine Articles**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Austin Community College  
Library Services**

## Part I: Internet Resources

### Directions for completing this assignment.

You will evaluate the quality of 3 web pages on a topic of your choice.

#### Step 1: Evaluation of Sources

Because there is so much information on the web, learning to select higher quality sources is a very important skill.

To learn some quick ways to do this, go through the online tutorial called “Evaluating Information” on the ACC Library web site.

Go to: <http://library.austincc.edu> Click on the link below.

**AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT** Library Services

About Us Locations & Hours Services & Programs Books, Art

**FOR STUDENTS**

- Chat with a Librarian
- Check out Library Material
- Your Library Record
- How do I...? Library FAQs
- Get Assignment & Research Help
- A-Z List of Databases
- Research/Subject Guides
- Citing Sources
- Student Learning Success Toolbox
- More ...

**FOR FACULTY & STAFF**

- Find your Subject Librarian
- Library Instruction Request
- Suggest Library Material
- Help with Library Assignments
- Putting Material on Reserve
- Faculty Services
- Faculty & the Library Toolbox
- Faculty Teaching Toolbox

**GET VIRTUAL HELP :**

- All Online Tutorials
- Choosing a Topic
- Identifying Keywords
- Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
- **Evaluating Information**
- Finding Background Information
- Finding Books and E-Books

**FIND BOOKS, ARTICLES, VIDEOS**

Search the **Library Catalog** and **Library** movies, music, articles, and more.

Books, articles, videos ...

Search

Library Catalog Only Research Guides

**Step 2: Use a search engine such as Google or Bing to locate 3 web pages on your topic. Complete an evaluation checklist (included in this handout) for each.**

**Step 5: Turn in all 3 of your web evaluations to your instructor.**

Be sure to write your name and the date at the bottom of each checklist.

## Writing Skills III: Thinking About Information Sources

My topic \_\_\_\_\_

Title of web page \_\_\_\_\_

Author (if given) \_\_\_\_\_

Web address (URL) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief summary of contents: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Currency:** Information on the Internet may be outdated. Depending on your topic, something posted two years ago may no longer be valid or up-to-date.

Can you tell when the information was published? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no If yes, when?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you tell if it has been updated? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Relevance:** Does the web page really cover your topic? Search engines are not smart. They can find pages that don't really relate. Also some web pages will be too elementary while others may be too advanced.

How directly does the page relate to your topic? \_\_\_very much \_\_\_ some \_\_\_ only a bit  
Is it on a good level for college undergraduates? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ too simple \_\_\_ too advanced

3. **Authority:** Anyone can put information on the web, so checking the credentials of the author(s) and/or sponsoring organization is very important.

Is there an author listed? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ can't tell

If so, are there any credentials given? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_no \_\_\_\_\_ can't tell

Is the web page from \_\_\_\_\_ an organization? \_\_\_\_\_ an individual? \_\_\_\_\_ can't tell

If an organization, what can you tell about it? (Look for a link to their homepage or to an "about us" page.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What type of web site is this? \_\_\_\_\_ .edu \_\_\_ .gov \_\_\_\_\_ .com \_\_\_ .org \_\_\_ other

4. **Accuracy:** Just because it's on the web doesn't mean it's correct.

Does the information appear to be mostly (check one) \_\_\_\_\_factual? \_\_\_\_\_an ad?  
\_\_\_\_\_ an opinion? \_\_\_\_\_a personal story?

What clues helped you determine this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there references or links to information that the author used as research? \_\_\_\_\_yes  
\_\_\_\_\_no

5. **Purpose:** Why was this web page written?

Is the purpose of this web page: \_\_\_ to sell something \_\_\_ to inform \_\_\_ to persuade

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Skills III: Thinking About Information Sources

My topic \_\_\_\_\_

Title of web page \_\_\_\_\_

Author (if given) \_\_\_\_\_

Web address (URL) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief summary of contents: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Currency:** Information on the Internet may be outdated. Depending on your topic, something posted two years ago may no longer be valid or up-to-date.

Can you tell when the information was published? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no If yes, when?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you tell if it has been updated? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Relevance:** Does the web page really cover your topic? Search engines are not smart. They can find pages that don't really relate. Also some web pages will be too elementary while others may be too advanced.

How directly does the page relate to your topic? \_\_\_very much \_\_\_ some \_\_\_ only a bit  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there references or links to information that the author used as research? \_\_\_\_\_yes  
\_\_\_\_\_no

5. **Purpose:** Why was this web page written?

Is the purpose of this web page: \_\_\_ to sell something \_\_\_ to inform \_\_\_ to persuade

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing Skills III: Thinking About Information Sources

My topic \_\_\_\_\_

Title of web page \_\_\_\_\_

Author (if given) \_\_\_\_\_

Web address (URL) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief summary of contents: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Currency:** Information on the Internet may be outdated. Depending on your topic, something posted two years ago may no longer be valid or up-to-date.

Can you tell when the information was published? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no If yes, when?

Can you tell if it has been updated? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Relevance:** Does the web page really cover your topic? Search engines are not smart. They can find pages that don't really relate. Also some web pages will be too elementary while others may be too advanced.

How directly does the page relate to your topic? \_\_\_very much \_\_\_ some \_\_\_ only a bit  
Is it on a good level for college undergraduates? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ too simple \_\_\_ too advanced

3. **Authority:** Anyone can put information on the web, so checking the credentials of the author(s) and/or sponsoring organization is very important.

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What clues helped you determine this? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there references or links to information that the author used as research? \_\_\_\_\_yes  
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5. **Purpose:** Why was this web page written?

Is the purpose of this web page: \_\_\_ to sell something \_\_\_ to inform \_\_\_ to persuade

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part II: Periodical Articles

### Directions for completing Part II of this assignment.

In Part I of this assignment you used the World Wide Web to find information on a topic. In Part II you will use an online source, but it will be a “private” database from the ACC library. This database has articles that are not available on the web. These have a more consistent level of quality.

#### Step 1: Access the periodical index, *Academic Search Complete*

Use a computer that can access the internet.

- Go to the ACC Library homepage: <http://library.austincc.edu>
- Click on “A-Z List of Databases” in the left column.
- Click on the letter A, then click on *Academic Search Complete*. \*
- Do a keyword search on your topic.
- Ask the librarian for help if you are having problems with your search.
- Print out two articles on your topic.

#### Step 2: Complete an evaluation checklist for the two articles.

#### Step 3: Turn in both of your evaluation checklists and your articles to your instructor.

Be sure to write your name and the date at the bottom of each checklist.

\*If you access *Academic Search Complete* from off campus, you will use your ACC eID.

### Looking at an article using *Academic Search Complete*

The screenshot shows a search result for an article. The title is "11. The Generation Effect in the Context of Lyrical Censorship." The authors are listed as "By: GOLDMAN, BRITTANY A.; KELLEY, MATTHEW R." The publication information is "Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research, Summer2009, Vol. 14 Issue 2, p72-78. 7p. 1 Chart, 1 Graph." The subjects are "INTELLECTUAL freedom; MATHEMATICAL programming; MUSIC; MARKETING; QUALITATIVE research". There is a "PDF Full Text (692KB)" link. Annotations with arrows point to the title, authors, publication info, and the PDF link.

**Title of article**

**Authors of article**

**Name of publication; date of article; length of article.**

**Click to get full text of article**

11. **The Generation Effect in the Context of Lyrical Censorship.**

By: GOLDMAN, BRITTANY A.; KELLEY, MATTHEW R. *Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research*. Summer2009, Vol. 14 Issue 2, p72-78. 7p. 1 Chart, 1 Graph.

**Subjects:** INTELLECTUAL freedom; MATHEMATICAL programming; MUSIC; MARKETING; QUALITATIVE research

PDF Full Text (692KB)

## Writing Skills III: Thinking About Information Sources

Title of article \_\_\_\_\_

Author \_\_\_\_\_

Title of publication \_\_\_\_\_

Publication date \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Currency.** Magazines and newspapers are good sources for information on current issues. An article published three or four years ago may not be sufficiently up-to-date for your needs.

What is the date of the article? \_\_\_\_\_

For your topic, in your opinion, is the information current enough? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

2. **Relevance.** How directly does this article address your topic? \_\_\_ very \_\_\_ some \_\_\_ a little

Is this article on an appropriate level for college? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ too simple \_\_\_ too advanced

3. **Authority.** Magazine articles tend to be more credible because an editor has usually checked the facts. Still, it's important to look at the writer or reporter's credentials and the type of magazine in which the article appears.

Is there an author listed? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ can't tell

If yes, are there any credentials given? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ can't tell

Do you know anything about the periodical the article is from? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

If yes, what do you know about it? \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Accuracy.**

Does the information appear to be mostly (check one) \_\_\_\_\_ factual? \_\_\_ an advertisement? \_\_\_ an opinion? \_\_\_ a personal story?

What clues helped you determine this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. **Purpose.** Why was this article written?

\_\_\_ to inform \_\_\_ to persuade \_\_\_ to simply entertain

What can you tell about the audience for this magazine (who reads it?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Writing Skills III: Thinking About Information Sources

Title of article \_\_\_\_\_  
Author \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of publication \_\_\_\_\_  
Publication date \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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What can you tell about the audience for this magazine (who reads it?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WRITING SKILLS III**  
**LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

***Fill out this questionnaire after you have finished the Library Assignment and then give it to your teacher. Your teacher will send it to Frank Cronin at the Northridge Campus.***

**Please write complete detailed answers.**

1. Was any part of the assignment confusing? If so, which part was confusing and why was it confusing?

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2. Before this assignment were you familiar with the meaning of different domain names such as **.gov**, **.edu**, **.org**, and **.com**?

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3. Were you already familiar with the on-line full-text periodical index called *Academic Search Complete*? Which topic did you choose and what were the titles of your two articles?

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4. As part of the assignment you used checklists to evaluate on-line sources and magazine sources. In what ways were the checklists helpful to you? Were the checklists confusing in any way?

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5. Class section number: \_\_\_\_\_