



CNA Resource Centres



Evaluate Internet Sources

THE ABILITY TO USE INFORMATION IS EMPOWERING

To be able to evaluate "Internet Research Sources" or "Critically Analyze Information Sources," deals with evaluating sources in general, not only information on the internet.

1. **Adapt Critical Consciousness For All Internet Interaction:**
Scan for triggers that show misinformation and be aware of vulnerability. Remember that people can publish anything they want on the internet. Check and see if the website is legitimate.
2. **Establish Prior Knowledge Through Web Browsing, Searching/Reading:**
Wide reading in content area and wide browsing of net. Surf, follow relevant links, track your paths, and save tempting links for later. Include print sources in this wide reading.
3. **Distinguish Between Fact/Opinion:**
It is safest to treat electronic dialogues (listserv, newsgroups, chat groups) as opinion unless supported by references or logical argument. (Footnotes, reference, bibliographies, active verbs and stats help to mark facts.)
4. **Compare and Contrast Related Pieces of Information From Different Sites, Sources and Engines:**
It is seldom safe to accept solitary pieces of information before comparing and contrasting it with other related pieces which may confirm or contradict. Examine credentials of person's background and ability to write with authority. To do this, consult library catalogue for lists of author's other works.
5. **Check and see how current the site is:**
If a site has not been updated for several years, the information used may not be applicable. Also, do not be fooled if the site claims to be updated daily. Some web pages have a built in clock that changes every day, to make it seem as if the page has

