Web Evaluation

When it comes to evaluating web pages, think **APPLES** (an acronym for Accuracy, Player(s), Perspective, Links, Evidence, Sources).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check Accuracy</th>
<th>Check Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check Player(s)</td>
<td>Check Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check Perspective</td>
<td>Check Sources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Check Accuracy**: The problem of web research is to determine if the information is accurate. The best way to do this is to find other sources that give the same or similar information. Backing-up your sources is a good practice in any research venue. Beyond back-up sources, you should check the credentials of the writer(s), investigate the perspective (bias) of the site, check the links at the site (and to the site), evaluate the kinds of evidence, and review the kinds of sources used to document the web site.

**Check Player(s)**: If a resource is offering specialized information, the site builder should have the credentials to support the information. If not, the writer should supply documentation of the sources for his/her information. Yet you should also look beyond who wrote the page to who is sponsoring the page. Is it a commercial site (.com)? A non-profit site (.org)? An educational site (.edu)? Who is sponsoring the page can tell you a lot about the potential for bias.

**Check Perspective**: Most web sites have a perspective or advocate something. They may be trying to sell a product, gain support for a cause, or change the views of the reader (or may be just having fun). Does the perspective add to or take away from the credibility of the information?

**Check Links**: A good resource will supply links to other resources. Do the links support your resource? If yes, are the sources at the ends of the links good ones? Checking links will also tell you if the site is well maintained. Broken links (links that do not work) may tell you that the site is not updated or maintained.

**Check Evidence**: A good resource will have detailed evidence and will offer different kinds of evidence (authority, definitions, statistics, examples). Does your source do so?

**Check Sources**: A good resource will list the sources of any evidence. Does your source do so? If yes, are the sources good ones? Are the sources credible and fair?
