

# How reliable is internet information?

The Web is a wonderful resource for the latest information on almost any topic; however, because **anyone** can post to the Web, the quality of that information can vary tremendously. This exercise will give you practice in determining differences among Web resources. You will be using a web site as your starting point, but please follow the directions below.

Use this webpage to complete the assignment: <http://www.quia.com/pages/psynetanalysis.html>

Complete the activity as described on the website; brief directions also follow. You may choose to record information in your notebook or you may find it easier to open a Word document and print it at the end of the class period.

## Internet Source Analysis Directions:

### **PART A: Establishing Criteria**

- 1) Visit the first three sites, which offer information on criteria to use when evaluating websites.
- 2) Based on the information you read, choose **six** specific things that you feel are most important to look for when evaluating a website.

### **PART B: Practicing Site Evaluation**

1) Choose a topic to investigate: **\*\*Depression\*\*** or **\*\*Anxiety\*\***  
*If you completed this activity in general psychology, please choose a different topic to analyze.*

2) You may want to create a chart to track this information; you will need to list how each site meets the six criteria you identified in Part A. You will visit four sites. Example:

| Topic:       | Site #1 | Site #2 | Site #3 | Site #4 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Criteria #1: |         |         |         |         |
| Criteria #2: |         |         |         |         |
| Criteria #3: |         |         |         |         |
| Criteria #4: |         |         |         |         |
| Criteria #5: |         |         |         |         |
| Criteria #6: |         |         |         |         |

**Your notes here...**

- 3) For **each** site you visit, describe how the site meets **each** of your six criteria.
- 4) Also rate each site you visit using the following scale:  
*1 = poor site; very biased*  
*3 = fair site; both good & bad information*  
*5 = very good site; citable information*

### **PART C: Drawing Conclusions**

Write a conclusion in your notes: if you suffered from depression or had an anxiety disorder, from which site(s) would you feel most comfortable taking information and advice? **WHY??**