**IS THIS WEBSITE CREDIBLE?**

**1**. What are the author's qualifications, credentials and connections to the subject?

**2**. With what organization is the author associated? Is there a link to the sponsoring organization, a contact number and/or address or e-mail contact?

**3.** Are there clues that the author is biased? For example, is he/she selling or promoting a product? Is the author taking a personal stand on a social/political issue or is the author being objective?

**4.** Is the information current? Do the links work?

**5.** Is there a works cited list of credible sources? If the information is not backed up with sources, is the author an "expert"?

**6.** On what kind of Web site does the information appear? The site can give you clues about the credibility of the source.

**Types of Web sites:**

* **Personal Home Pages** - maintained by individuals. They are often informal. **Not the best source of information.**
* **Special interest sites** - maintained by non-profit organizations or activists dealing with special issues, such as environmental concerns, legalization of marijuana, etc. **Could be biased.**
* **Professional sites** - maintained by institutions/organizations, sometimes by individuals. They can include research, reference sources, fact sheets. Many institutions provide such services to the public. **Usually credible.**
* **News and Journalistic sites** (E-zines) - which include national, international news, online newspapers, magazines, and "homegrown" Web publications. Anyone can publish his or her own "news," on the Web. Is the source a **well-known news distributor**? Are they known for being objective?
* **Commercial sites** – Although many legitimate businesses have Websites, some are not legitimate. Companies want to make money. **They are naturally biased**.