Information Literacy Learning Outcome this assignment addresses:
Uses selection criteria to choose appropriate information

This assignment is meant to **REINFORCE** the skill of information evaluation.

**Objectives of assignment:**
- Students will be able to discuss and consider criteria for analyzing the quality of the content on websites.
- Students will be able to determine which websites are authoritative, reliable research resources.

**Process:**
- The instructor will review and discuss the criteria for evaluating web resources, and how to apply the criteria during the exercise, and distribute print-outs of criteria. [Note: The assignment sheet was created using Jim Kapoun’s “Five Criteria for Evaluating Web pages.”]
  - Criteria Websites:
    - Association of College & Research Libraries, Jim Kapoun
      - [http://ux.brookdalecc.edu/library/5criteria.pdf](http://ux.brookdalecc.edu/library/5criteria.pdf)
    - Johns Hopkins University: Evaluating Information
      - [http://guides.library.jhu.edu/c.php?g=202581&p=1334914](http://guides.library.jhu.edu/c.php?g=202581&p=1334914)
- The instructor will create a list of websites for the students to explore, and will demonstrate how to apply evaluation criteria to an example of one reliable source and of one questionable source. Some suggested sites for comparison are found at the end of this exercise.

**Assignment:** Evaluating websites
- Divide students into small groups (2-4 students). Each group should be given a pair of URLs for websites that cover similar topics.
- Students should evaluate both sites using the criteria discussed above. Instructors can provide students a website evaluation checklist form if desired.
- Each group will share their findings with the class in group discussion at the end of the session.
- Based on consistencies or inconsistencies in group decisions, the class will discuss why, using common criteria, they believed sources were reliable or not reliable.

**Important summation/review points:**
- During the class discussion before and after the Assignment, the instructor should emphasize how the criteria have been used to determine whether or not a website would make a good research resource.
- Authority, Currency and Objectivity are good ways of determining the validity of a website, and can be quickly pointed out to the class.
- The instructor should stress the importance of warily approaching all web postings but remind students that by applying some criteria they can find resources well worth the search.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Websites for Evaluation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **American Academy of Pediatrics**  
https://www.aap.org | The American Academy of Pediatrics is a national organization with some 60,000 members. The American College of Pediatricians, by contrast, is estimated to have no more than 200 members, and it has been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for its anti-LGBT positions. |
| **American College of Pediatricians**  
https://www.acpeds.org/ | |
| **Martin Luther King**  
https://www.martinlutherking.org/ | The King Center is the memorial established in 1968 by Coretta Scott King to advance her husband’s legacy. MartinLutherKing.org is a spinoff of Stormfront.org, the “white nationalist” online community created in 1995 by former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard Don Black. |
| **The King Center**  
http://www.thekingcenter.org/ | |
| **Conservapedia: Public School in U.S.**  
http://www.conservapedia.com/Public_schools_in_the_United_States | Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia with the aim to allow anyone to edit articles. Conservapedia is a website founded by US religious activists that aims to counter what they claim is “liberal bias” on Wikipedia. |
| **Wikipedia: Education in U.S.**  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_the_United_States | |
| **NASA**  
https://climate.nasa.gov/ | NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is a leader in climate research, and an organization with strict guidelines for quality of information (read the policy on their site). The International Climate Science Coalition is a climate skeptic lobby group made up of “independent scientists, economists and energy and policy experts.” |
| **International Climate Science Coalition**  
http://www.climatescienceinternational.org/ | |
| **Age of Autism**  
http://www.ageofautism.com/ | Age of Autism promotes the conviction that “the autism epidemic is real, and excessive vaccinations are the cause.” Autism Speaks is a non-profit organization “dedicated to advancing research into causes and better treatments for autism spectrum disorders.” |
| **Autism Speaks**  
https://www.autismspeaks.org | |