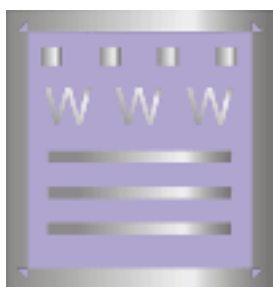




***MicroModule: accuracy***

**REVIEW Page**

Below is the entire module on one page.



**Why should we check the accuracy of information on a web page?**

The accuracy of factual information can tell you something about the care the author took in preparing the document and can provide clues to possible bias in the perspective represented in the document. Most web pages are not reviewed or edited. Anyone can post just about anything they want on the Internet. A second grader can claim to be a nobel prize winner. A Russian professor can be mistaken for an American child due to lack of familiarity with the English language. It is important to check the facts and not rely on first impressions.

**How can you check the accuracy of information on a web page?**

Cross check factual data with other documents on the web by searching for other pages containing information about the facts. This is where it is important to have at least three sources that agree on the same data point. For example, the distance from the earth to the sun is 93 million miles, fluctuating up to 3 million miles due to its elliptical orbit. Some resources will just say 90 million miles, some 93 million miles and stop there. Until you have three sources that agree on a number, you don't really know for sure. This is called triangulation of data.



**Spelling Counts:** Even checking spelling and grammar can sometimes provide a clue about the care taken in creating a document. But remember, British spelling and phrasing are also acceptable.

**Ask Questions:** A good way to check factual data is by asking probing questions. As you practice this will become second nature; you will find yourself asking these questions automatically upon entering any web site.

- What claims is the author making?
- What evidence does the author give to support those claims?
- What evidence do I find elsewhere to support those claims?
- What evidence do I find elsewhere to refute those claims?



Let's try it! Your school web site claims Montana is famous for its red raspberries. Using the following three web sites (to save you time), check the accuracy of your school web site's claim. (If you have more time, search the Internet for other sites that support or refute this claim.)

- <http://www.montana.edu/wwwpb/pubs/mt9804.pdf>
- <http://www.state.mt.us/liv/pressrel/2003/4-14-03a.ASP>
- <http://gardenguide.montana.edu/May00/May00.htm>

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***End of Micromodule - accuracy.***

***Return to Micromodule [List](#)***