Evaluating Websites: What Websites Can I Trust?

Questions to Ask:

1. **What type of domain does it come from?**
   - Government sites: .gov   .mil
   - Educational sites: .edu
   - Nonprofit organizations: .org
   - Business or commercial sites: .com
   - State government sites: .oh.us
   - Network organizations/internet providers: .net

2. **Is it somebody's personal page?** Look at the URL closely for a name or nickname or is the server a commercial ISP like aol.com? This tilde ~ usually indicates a personal site.

3. **Is the page current?** Are dates listed? Have there been modifications or updates made and are the dates listed usually at the bottom?

4. **Are there links given such as "Links", "Additional Sites", and "Resources"?** Are the links current and working?

5. **Does the page function well?** Is the page easy to navigate? Is the site searchable?

OK, I found a site. Now what do I do?

1. **Scan the site**. Does it look like a Lexile that you can read and understand?
2. **Does the site include more than one opinion on a topic?** If a site is strongly opinionated about only one side of a topic, it could be biased.
3. **Does the written work on the site include footnotes which give credit to a different source other than the website?** This is important to note when you are stating facts and citing sources.