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# The Art of Arguing

*The Elegant Essay* by Lesha Myers (published by the Institute for Excellence in Writing)

### Sources for Research:
- Wikipedia (with cautions)
- Databases (with library card), especially "Opposing Viewpoints"
  Note: apply for an online e-card from the Contra Costa Library for immediate access to databases
- *Power Google* by Richard Harris:
  http://novella.mhhe.com/sites/0079876543/student_view0/power_google.html
  Or go to www.VirtualSalt.com and click on "Power Google"

### MLA citation generators:
- http://www.noodletools.com/noodlebib/express.php
- http://citationmachine.net/
- http://21cif.imsa.edu/tools/citation/
- http://secondary.oslis.org/resources/cm/mlacitationss

### Sample essays written in MLA format:
- Two examples, both illustrating various ways to cite sources in the essay as well as format a Works Cited page. First essay illustrates a basic essay, while the second illustrates the more formal (and extensive) research essay.
  http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s5.html

### Resources
- *A Writer's Reference* by Diana Hacker or *Pocket Style Manual* by Diana Hacker (a bit shorter)—good to answer both style and citation questions.
- Diana Hacker's website for documenting sources
  http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_o.html
- *The Fallacy Detective* by Nathaniel Bluedorn and Hans Bluedorn
  http://www.christianlogic.com/products/item/the-fallacy-detective
- Advanced Placement® English Language and Composition
  http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/sub_englang.html?englang
- Cliffs AP Language (4th edition)

### Columnist Project
SOAPStone

- Subject
- Occasion

- Audience
- Purpose

- Speaker
- Tone

Directions at http://del.icio.us/MrsLMyers
(Click on ColumnistProject under APLangage heading)

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# Web Page Evaluation Checklist

For a comprehensive explanation of these items, visit
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html

| | **Title of page you are examining:** | **Title of page you are examining:** |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Look at the URL** | | |
| Personal page or site? | ☐ ~        or        ☐ *users, members,* | ☐ ~        or        ☐ *users, members,* |
| What type of domain? Appropriate for the content? | ☐ .com  ☐ .org  ☐ .net  ☐ .gov/mil/us ☐ non US? ☐ Other? | ☐ .com  ☐ .org  ☐ .net  ☐ .gov/mil/us ☐ non US? ☐ Other? |
| Published by entity that makes sense? Correspond to the name of the site? | Publisher or domain name entity: | Publisher or domain name entity: |
| **2. Scan the perimeter of page, looking for answers to these questions:** | | |
| Who wrote the page? | ☐ Contain E-mail? ☐ Author identified? | ☐ Contain E-mail? ☐ Author identified? |
| Dated? | Date _____ Current enough? | Date _____ Current enough? |
| Credentials on this subject? (Truncate back the URL if no useful links) | Evidence? | Evidence? |
| **3. Look for these evidences of quality:** | | |
| Sources well documented? | | |
| Complete? Does it contain second-hand information (reprinted articles may be changed) | | |
| Links to more resources? (Do they work?) | | |
| Other viewpoints? Bias? (Remember, *everything* is biased.) | | |
| **4. What do others say?** | | |
| Who links to it? link:[URL] | Many or few? Opinions? | Many or few? Opinions? |
| Look up the author in Google | | |

| 5.  Does it all add up? | | |
|---|---|---|
| Why was the page put on the Web? | ☐ Inform; Facts, Data<br>☐ Explain<br>☐ Persuade<br>☐ Sell<br>☐ Entice<br>☐ Share/disclose<br>☐ Other | ☐ Inform; Facts, Data<br>☐ Explain<br>☐ Persuade<br>☐ Sell<br>☐ Entice<br>☐ Share/disclose<br>☐ Other |
| Possibly ironic? Satire or parody?<br>(Example—<br>http://www.theonion.com) | | |
| Overall Impression? | | |