



Web site evaluation

Directions: You will compare and contrast three web sites that feature information on a similar topic. You will evaluate the quality of information for each based on this comparison. Find and examine these news web sites online.

Al Jazeera

<http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage>

Debka File

<http://www.debka.com>

BBC

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

For each numbered item below, write a minimum of one paragraph comparing each of these 3 sites with one another. In your own words explain:

1. **Purpose:** What are these sites and what does each purport to do?
2. **Bias:** Is there any political viewpoint expressed in each site?
3. **Author:** Are there authors for each of these web sites? Name them. What are the authors' credentials? Is there a corporate author/organization or sponsor behind each? Name the corporate author/sponsor and say something about them. Give their credentials on the subject if possible.
4. **Size and scope:** How large is each of these web sites, comparatively speaking? How deep are they, *i.e.* do these sites contain multiple pages or is the web site shallow? You'll have to click around to determine the size and scope of each web site.
5. **Credibility:** How does each site document its sources? How do you know that information contained is believable? Could you use any of these web sites as a source for a research paper? Why or why not?
6. **Objectivity:** How is the content for each web site presented? Is there a difference in the way the material is presented for each? What stories are being covered? Are certain stories or points of view missing?
7. **Currency:** How old are these pages? When was each last updated? Are the pages current? Are different news stories given individual dates?
8. **Audience** for each: see if you can figure out who looks at these sites? Describe who you believe to be the average reader for each web page address.

Extra credit: Dig deeper and find other web pages that discuss any of these 3 sites to see if you can uncover more information about them.