Evaluating Web Pages

To evaluate a webpage, pay special attention to the URL, the footer, and the “About Us” section if available. These sections give you a lot of information in evaluating a page.

**SOURCE**
1. Who is the author, organization or sponsor behind it?
2. What can you tell about the author’s credentials?
3. What can you tell about the author’s point of view or bias?

**PURPOSE**
1. Can you tell why the information was written?
2. Is there an organization producing the information?
3. Why was this written? To inform, explain, persuade, sell, etc.?

**INFORMATION**
1. What is the date of publication or when was the web page last updated?
2. Is there a bibliography or sources cited page that tells what this information is based on?
3. How detailed or in-depth is the article or web page?

**DOMAIN**
1. What is the domain of the website?
2. What does the domain tell you, if anything, about the site’s reliability?

**EDUCATIONAL**
1. Who is the intended audience?
2. What type of language is used? (General, advanced, technical, specialized, etc.)
3. Does the author present a balanced viewpoint?

**RELIABILITY**
1. How does the information on this site compare to others?

Overall, would you say this is a source that you would use in your academic research?
Why or why not?