Evaluating Information

Why is it important to evaluate information?
People have different reasons for publishing information: experts might like to publish their research, some people might have political motive, while others might want to simply convey their opinions. It's important to know that anyone can publish on the web and there is no guarantee the information they publish will be accurate. Therefore, it is essential you evaluate any information you

When looking up information on the internet. It would be worth asking these four simple questions:

Who?	Who wrote the article? Remember anyone can publish on the web so it's important to be confirm if the author has the relevant expertise. You can usually find details about who the author/editors are in the 'about us' section or by clicking © section at the bottom of the page.
Why?	Why was the article written? Is it to educate and inform, to promote a biased opinion or for parody purposes? Sometimes it can be obvious from the text other times not as much. If there are references make sure and check them out where possible. Compare what is written to a least three other resources and if it sounds too unbelievable to be true it probably is.
When?	When was it written? You'll see when the page was last updated on the bottom of the website. If it's a few years old consider if new and more updated information might be available.
What?	What type of a resource is it and what information are they giving? Bear in mind that personal blogs usually don't go through an editorial system so the information is published is not always checked.

Consider:

- There are over 30 Trillion Webpages
- Not everything published is true
  It's easy to make a website look good. Just because it looks professional doesn't mean the content on it is reliable.