

$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

HOW DO I EVALUATE WEBSITES?



Northeastern University
University Libraries

Ask 6 key questions



What?



When?



Where?



Who?



Why?



How?

What?

What is the subject of the website?



Is it aimed at a specific audience?

Does it offer reasonably complete coverage of the topic, or are there obvious omissions?



To answer these questions, it's important to compare content found on websites with other types of sources, like articles and books.

When?

When was the website published or last updated?
You may need to look at the bottom of the webpage to find this information.

Are there dead links?



404

Page not found

The Page you are looking for doesn't exist or another error occurred.
[Go back](#), or head over to [Scass Tech](#) to choose a new direction.

Where?

Where was the website published?

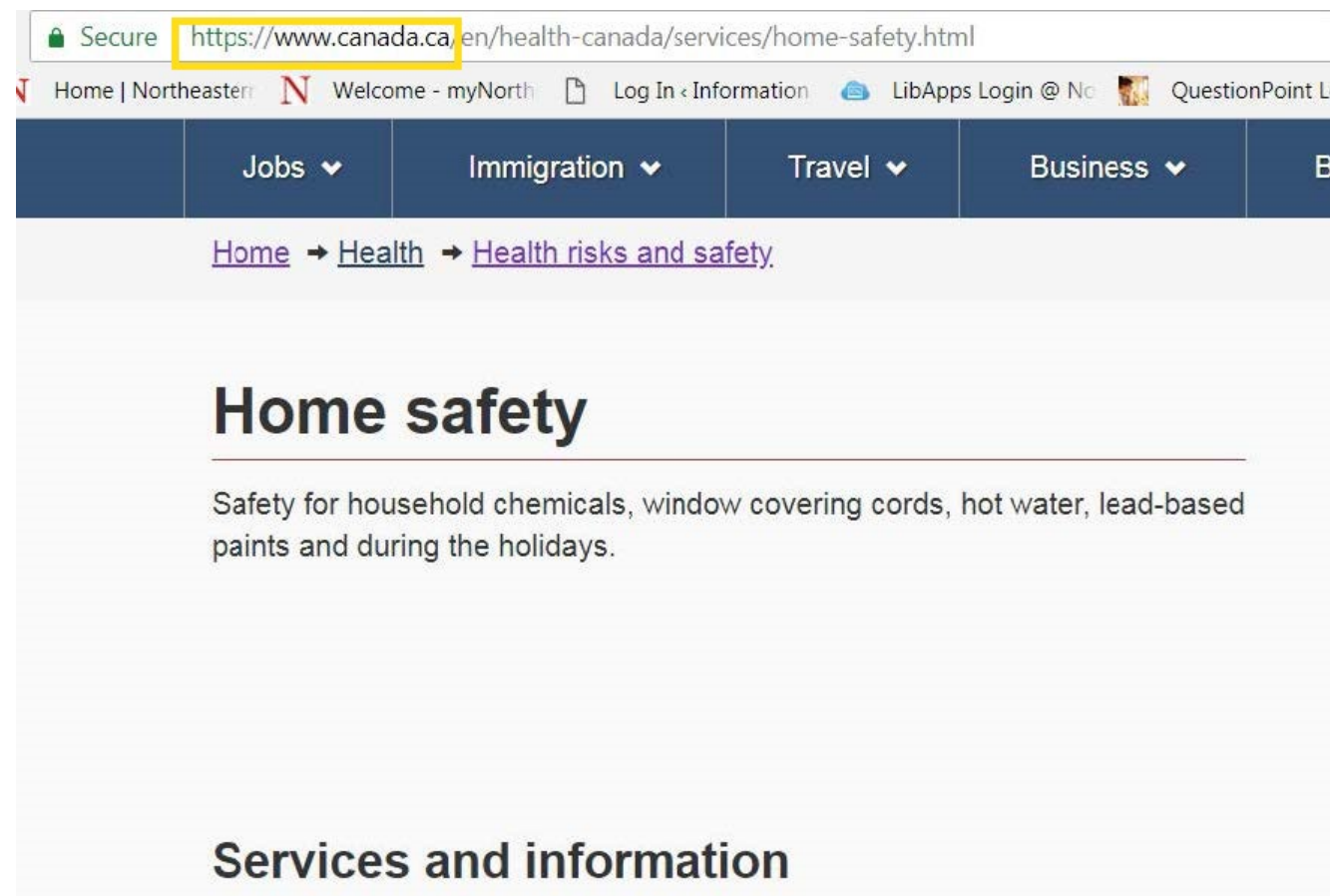
Check the domain to see whether it's from a .gov, .edu, .org, or .com address.

The screenshot shows a web browser with the address bar displaying <https://www.cdc.gov/features/new-autism-data/index.html>. The domain <https://www.cdc.gov/> is highlighted with a yellow box. The browser's address bar also shows 'Secure' and a star icon. Below the address bar, there is a navigation bar with links: Home | Northeastern | Welcome - myNorth | Log In < Information | LibApps Login @ N | QuestionPoint Logo | Save to RefWorks | Reference Services | Capture Reference | Blue Jeans Network. The main content area features the CDC logo and the text 'Centers for Disease Control and Prevention' and 'CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the search bar, there is a 'CDC A-Z INDEX' dropdown menu. The main content area is titled 'CDC Features' and includes a sidebar with links: CDC Features, Data & Statistics, Diseases & Conditions, and New Data on Autism: Five Facts to Know. The main content area displays the title 'New Data on Autism: Five Facts to Know' and a social media sharing section with Facebook, Twitter, and a plus icon. Below the title, there is a paragraph: 'Many children are living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and they need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and'. A language dropdown menu is located on the right, showing 'Language: English (US)'. A small image of a person's face is visible in the bottom right corner.

Where?

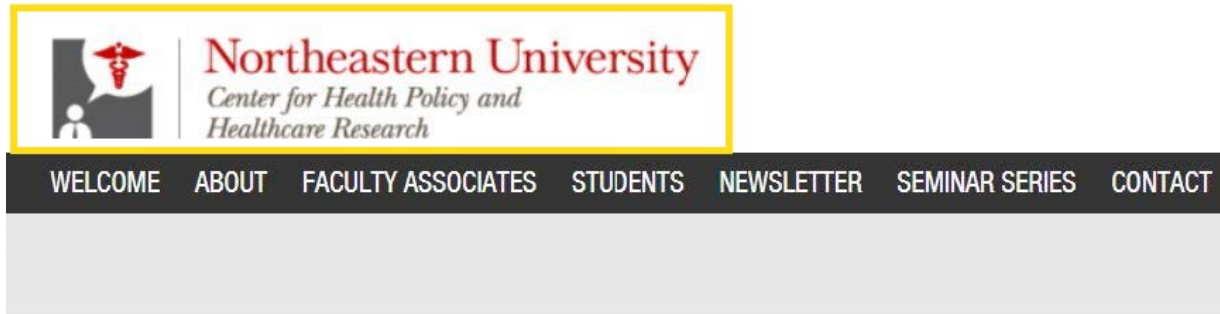
Its web address may also indicate that it was published in another country.

Would information from another country be appropriate for your research?



Who?

Who wrote the website?



Welcome



The Center's mission is to promote the efficiency, quality and accessibility of health care services through innovative research, education, and policy analysis.

The Center approaches health care issues from an interdisciplinary perspective that leverages the expertise and experience of its faculty associates. The Center's associated faculty members represent a range of disciplines including business, pharmacy, economics, engineering, law, information science, and organizational behavior.

Additional information about the Center's faculty, visiting fellows, and research activities can be found on other page

Is the author named? Does he or she have an affiliation with an academic or other institution?

Websites are often authored by institutions, associations, or government agencies.

Who We Are

Learn how the House of Delegates, councils, member groups, states medical associations and specialty societies, and staff promote patient health.

AMA History

Since its inception in 1847, see the important role the AMA and its members have played in the development of medicine in the United States.

[Learn More](#)

AMA Leadership & Staff

View the AMA Board of Trustees, senior leadership and management staff charged with ensuring AMA promotes the art and science of medicine.

[Learn More](#)

Look for background information on the author or authoring agency.

What credentials do they have?

Who?

If you are looking at the subpage of a website, you may need to "cut back" the URL to get to the main page.

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the CDC website, illustrating the concept of "cutting back" a URL to reach the main page.

Left Screenshot (Subpage):

- Address bar: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/new-autism-data/index.html> (highlighted)
- Navigation bar: Home | Northeastern | Welcome - myNorth | Log In < Information | LibApps Login @ N | QuestionPoint Logo | Save
- Header: CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™
- Section: CDC Features
- Left sidebar menu: CDC Features, Data & Statistics, Diseases & Conditions, New Data on Autism: Five Facts to Know
- Main content: New Data on Autism: Five Facts to Know. Many children are living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and they need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and

Right Screenshot (Main Page):

- Address bar: <https://www.cdc.gov> (highlighted)
- Navigation bar: Home | Northeastern | Welcome - myNorth | Log In < Information | LibApps Login @ N | QuestionPoint Logo | Save to RefWorks
- Header: CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™
- Navigation menu: Diseases & Conditions, Healthy Living, Travelers' Health, Emergency Preparedness
- Section: Wash Your Hands. Help protect yourself & others from getting sick with this simple step.

Is the purpose for the site stated?

Who We Are

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[Learn More](#)

Read the mission statement or About Us section if there is one.

Why?

Is the purpose to inform?

Secure | <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/about.html>

Home | Northeastern | Welcome - myNorth | Log In | Information | LibApps Login @ Northeastern | QuestionPoint Login | Save to RefWorks | Reference Services | Capture Reference | Blue Jeans Network


Past Pandemics

National Pandemic Strategy +

Monitoring for Influenza Viruses +


Planning and Preparedness Resources +

Archived Documents +

 **Get Email Updates**

To receive weekly email updates about Seasonal Flu, enter your email address:

[What's this?](#)



1918
FLU
PANDEMIC
100 YEARS
WE REMEMBER. WE PREPARE.

Influenza Types

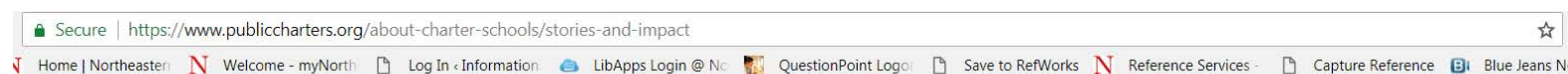
Seasonal

	Seasonal Flu	Pandemic Flu
How often does it happen?	Happens annually and usually peaks between December and February	Rarely happens (three times in 20th century)
Will most people be immune?	Usually some immunity from previous exposures and influenza vaccination	Most people have little or no immunity because they have no previous exposure to the virus or similar viruses
Who is at risk for complications?	Certain people are at high-risk for serious complications (infants, elderly, pregnant women, extreme obesity and persons with certain chronic medical conditions)	Healthy people also may be at high risk for serious complications
Where can I get medical care?	Health care providers and hospitals can usually meet public and patient needs	Health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed Alternate care sites may be available to meet public and patient needs
Will a vaccine be available?	Vaccine available for annual flu season Usually, one dose of vaccine is needed for most people	Although the US government maintains a limited stockpile of pandemic vaccine, vaccine may not be available in the early stages of a pandemic Two doses of vaccine may be needed
Will antivirals be available?	Adequate supplies of antivirals are usually available	Antiviral supply may not be adequate to meet demand
How many people could get sick and suffer complications?	Rates of medical visits, complications, hospitalizations and death can vary from low to high CDC estimates that flu-related hospitalizations since 2010 ranged from 140,000 to 710,000, while flu-related deaths are estimated to have ranged from 12,000 to 56,000.	Rates of medical visits, complications, hospitalizations and death can range from moderate to high Number of deaths could be much higher than seasonal flu (e.g. The estimated U.S. death toll during the 1918 pandemic was approximately 675,000)
What impact will it have on schools and workplaces?	Usually causes minor impact on the general public, some schools may close and sick people are encouraged to stay home Manageable impact on domestic and world economies	May cause major impact on the general public, such as travel restrictions and school or business closings Potential for severe impact on domestic and world economies

These sites may contain facts and figures meant to explain a topic.

Why?

Is the purpose to persuade?
Does it include a call to action?



CITY ON A HILL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL



My name is Sandy Dessources and last year I graduated from City on a Hill Charter Public School in Boston, Massachusetts. It's my dream to become an attorney - I want to spend my career fighting to eliminate the systemic obstacles facing women. In order to fully understand where my dreams come from and how I plan to get there, I'd like to tell you a bit about myself. My family is from the island of Hispaniola, more formally known as Haiti. When we arrived in America, my parents could not speak, read, or write in English. My father had to work three jobs in order to make ends meet. But they were determined to give me the opportunity to get a strong education. Walking through the doors at City on a Hill for the first time, I was in total awe. At City on a Hill, I have learned many things—core academic subjects like Spanish, civics, English, and statistics, as well as equally important life skills such as professionalism, public speaking, and leadership. Last year on National College Decision Day, I chose between attending four incredible schools—American University, Brandeis University, College of the Holy Cross, and George Washington University!

— SANDY DESSOURCES, GRADUATE

[READ SANDY'S BLOG POST](#)

These sites may present arguments on issues that are controversial and may lend themselves to more than one point of view.

How?

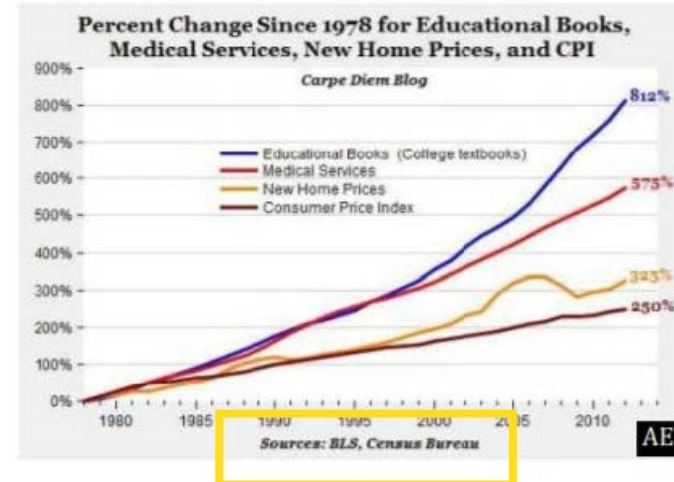
Does the website explain how the authors collected or analyzed the material they're presenting?

Did they do their own data collection and analysis or are they reporting on work done by others?

INCREASING PRICES SHOW NO SIGN OF SLOWING

Since 1978, college textbook costs have increased 812%.ⁱⁱⁱ To put that in context, it means that textbook prices have increased at 3.2 times the rate of inflation.

With oft-exceeding \$200 price tags, the cost of textbooks has become a serious barrier to college access and a negative impact on student success. A 2014 Student PIRGs study^{iv} found that 65% of students had skipped buying or renting a textbook because it was too expensive, and 94% of those students felt that doing so would hurt their grade in a course. Additionally, nearly half of students said the cost of textbooks impacted how many courses they were able to take.



Is statistical data properly documented? Check to make sure outside sources are properly attributed.



$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

ASK A LIBRARIAN

library.northeastern.edu/ask



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