

The “Eyebrow” Test for Evaluation of Websites

(Or, What makes your eyebrow ~ go up as you look at a website?)

By Sara Kelly Johns

~ Author?

Who wrote the page? Is your author an expert? Are the credentials of the author there? (Could be a group or organization as well as a person.)

~ URL?

Does the URL (web address) have “k12” in it? Does it have a tilde (~)?
What does the extension of the home page tell you? (ex.: .edu, .gov, .org, .com, .net, .info)

~ Date?

When was this page last updated? Does that matter for your topic?

~ Sources?

Is there a bibliography on the site or another way of showing where the author got the information, like hyperlinks? Are the sources reliable?

~ Bias?

Does the source reflect a bias or particular point of view?

~ Relevance?

Does the source give you information that answers your research question?
Does it repeat information you already have?

**If the website you find “raises your eyebrow”
too many times, find a better one!**