

## Judging Quality Web Links

Because online authors earn credibility with their readers by linking to external sources that support their positions and verify the facts they've included in their arguments, it is important for you to identify several logical places to include links in the piece you are writing. You should also evaluate the overall quality of the sources that you intend to link to. This handout will guide you through that process.

Use the column on the left to list statements from your writing where you'd like to insert a link to evidence. In the next column, include the links. Use [www.snipurl.com](http://www.snipurl.com) to shorten links. The three columns on the right are a rubric used to rate the quality of the resources you are linking to.

Statement	Link Address	Poor Resource	Average Resource	High-Quality Resource
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Doesn't include links to any external sources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is full of emotionally loaded words and phrases</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Includes statements that don't make sense</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Is out of date</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Comes from a source—an individual, group, or business involved in this issue—that may be biased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Includes a handful of reliable links</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Isn't overly biased, although it is easy to tell how the author feels about this issue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shares current information that can be verified, but fails to provide multiple viewpoints</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Includes contact information for the author</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Comes from a trustworthy source—university, well-known news source, business, or expert</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shares current information that can be verified through embedded links</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provides multiple viewpoints about the issue being studied</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Includes contact information for the author</li> </ul>

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