

STOP! Evaluate Websites Before Use. Determining the Most Credible Resource

Instructions: In this assignment, you will be looking at two websites about diabetes and evaluating the quality of each site.

Locate the following websites:

www.intelihealth.com

Go to diseases/conditions and scroll down to diabetes. Review the article on prediabetes

www.shape.com

In the search box, type diabetes. Review the article, "The other silent killer."

After reviewing the websites, answer the questions asked in the chart below. Be sure to refer to the [Stop! Evaluate Websites Before Use!](#) Guide to help you with your evaluation.

	Intelihealth.com	Shape.com
<p>Author</p> <p>Who or what is responsible for providing the information on the website? (hint: look for links such as About Us or FAQs)</p> <p>Who writes for this website? Does the site staff qualified individuals?</p> <p>Can you locate the author of the article? If so, where is this information located?</p>		

<p>Purpose</p> <p>What is the site's primary goal in providing the information? For example, is it primarily for information purposes, is it trying to sell you something, etc.</p> <p>What organization is sponsoring the article? Give a brief description.</p> <p>Does this site have advertisements or pop-ups? If yes, do you feel this adds or detracts to the credibility and why?</p>		
<p>Content</p> <p>Has the information provided by the website been reviewed and validated by others? Explain.</p> <p>Does the article you read provide credible references or resources?</p> <p>When was this article published and/or updated?</p>		

Final Question: After comparing the two websites, which one would you use for research purposes? Explain and support your answer.

Suggested Rubric

	Intelihealth.com	Shape.com
<p>Author</p> <p>Who or what is responsible for providing the information on the website? (hint: look for links such as About Us or FAQs)</p>	<p>By clicking on the icon for Aetna IntelliHealth, information is given that the site sponsor is a subsidiary of Aetna Inc. that works with the Harvard Medical School in creating this content.</p> <p>The mission of this site is to provide trusted health information to the public.</p>	<p>An author is not identified for this site. It can be assumed that the article was written by a journalist and reviewed by the staff editors of Shape.com. These individuals would be professional writers, but not necessarily professional in the medical field.</p>
<p>Who writes for this website? Does the site staff qualified individuals?</p>	<p>There is a link for Intelihealth policies. This link contains information on the editorial policy of the site that lists their partners and content sources. These include Harvard Medical School, Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, the Associated Press, and the New York Times, to name a few. The policy also states that each entry on the site identifies an author or editorial group.</p>	<p>There is a 'contact us' link that goes to a phone number for customer service and a form to submit an email to the site.</p>
<p>Can you locate the author of the article? If so, where is this information located?</p>	<p>While no specific author name is given, it is stated that the content of this article was reviewed by faculty of Harvard Medical School. This information is located at the top of the article.</p>	<p>Neither individual authors nor editors are identified.</p>

<p>Purpose</p> <p>What is the site’s primary goal in providing the information? For example, is it primarily for informational purposes, is it trying to sell you something, etc.</p> <p>What organization is sponsoring the article? Give a brief description.</p> <p>Does this site have advertisements or pop-ups? If yes, do you feel this adds or detracts to the credibility and why?</p>	<p>The article on this site is maintained for informational purposes. The entire site is maintained for informational purposes as well.</p> <p>The site states: <i>“Aetna IntelliHealth’s mission is to empower people with trusted solutions for healthier lives through its exclusive relationships with Harvard Medical School. Through Aetna IntelliHealth, Aetna seeks to educate the public with trusted health information so that health consumers, in partnership with their health care professionals, take an active role in health care decisions.”</i></p> <p>Site sponsor: <i>“InteliHealth Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aetna Inc., a leading provider of health, dental, group life, disability and long term care benefits to more than 30 million Americans.”</i> It is possible that a site sponsored by an insurance company may cause some concern as to the mission of this site, however further investigation would show it’s credibility comes with the reviewers it works with.</p> <p>There are no ads or pop-ups on this page other than relevant content to the page. This ads credibility to the site.</p>	<p>The article on this is maintained for informational purposes. The content of the site is for informational purposes. However, SHAPE is a popular magazine and this website is an attempt to gain higher subscription rates for their print publication and it is funded through advertisements.</p> <p>SHAPE is a general fitness magazine geared toward women. This site is the website companion to the print publication.</p> <p>There are lots of advertisements on this site for items including subscribing to the magazine, beer, gum, sneakers, etc.</p>
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<p>Content</p> <p>Has the information provided by the website been reviewed and validated by others? Explain.</p>	<p>Content has been reviewed by groups including Harvard Medical School and Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. The content for this specific article was reviewed by faculty from the Harvard Medical School.</p> <p>The site also contains the HON code (Health on the Net Foundation). This foundation is an outside entity that reviews websites that dispense health-related information for quality and integrity in providing that information. Having this code indicates a high level of quality.</p>	<p>There is no indication that this site has been reviewed or validated by others. It can be assumed that the editors of the site reviewed the content, but it is doubtful that they have a medical background.</p>
<p>Does the article you read provide credible references or resources?</p>	<p>References are not listed. However, credible resources are listed, including the American Diabetes Association and the American Dietetic Association. This includes their contact information and web address.</p>	<p>No references or resources are listed at the end of the article. The text of the article does contain some quotes from individuals identified as medical professionals from various institutions.</p>
<p>When was this article published and/or updated</p>	<p>This article was last updates on March 2, 2008. It is being properly maintained.</p>	<p>Published date or last updated date are not given for this article.</p>

Final Question: After comparing the two websites, which one would you use for research purposes? Explain and support your answer.

Intelihealth is the better source for research purposes because it was written by experts and reviewed by other experts as well as the Health on the Net Foundation. The content is written in a professional manner. The purpose of this site is for consumer education on health topics. SHAPE is a common interest website. It is not clear who wrote the SHAPE article or who reviewed its content. This is a popular site that would not be best suited for research purposes on the topic of diabetes.