

FORMATS (OR TYPES) OF WEB PAGES*

	Authorship	Examples	Sample Uses
<p>Blogs: A series of articles (called posts) shared because they are informative, but also as the impetus for conversation. Each post and its responses are on a dedicated page.</p>	<p>The post itself is usually written by a single, defined author followed by comments each submitted by an individual author. All posts in a blog may be by one author, or authors may alternate. The blog format is used by many sites that are not strictly blogs, such as by newspapers posting articles from their print editions and recipe sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Lifehacker.com  Treehugger.com  Scientist at Work  Freakonomics 	<p>Besides the contents of the post itself, which can be highly informative, the comments that follow it can be useful for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  collecting lists (e.g., readers offering their favorite websites/sources on the role of women in the Civil War),  seeing multiple viewpoints (e.g., readers sharing various theories on animal intelligence), or  offering further information and feedback on information given (e.g., readers asking and answering each other's questions and sharing experiences from using instructions for fusing plastic bags to make fabric).
<p>Wikis: A collection of articles or other resources defined specifically by the process of communal authorship and editing to create the content.</p>	<p>Each page in a wiki is collaboratively created with input from many different authors and editors. Therefore, individual authorship is not identifiable since the information is entirely integrated. Some wikis (e.g., Wikipedia) are open to any members of the public who want to participate, while others are written by a selected group (e.g., some schools have internal wikis). Generally a wiki with active authorship tends to primarily hold information and have difficulty sustaining opinions within the content.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Wookieepedia  WikiTravel  Debatepedia 	<p>Wikis like Wikipedia can help stimulate further research by offering interesting new facts, clarifying good search terms, and sometimes exposing useful resources. Subject specific wikis, such as Camerapedia, can bring together professional and hobbyist experts to provide factual information. While searchers may want to confirm facts elsewhere, wikis can be a useful source for background information. In particular, they are often used to collect encyclopedic-style information on pop culture topics that might not appear in a more traditional encyclopedia.</p>

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<p>Question and Answer sites: A site where individuals can pose questions to the public, and anyone from the public can answer them. Q&A sites are likely very helpful to students in various aspects of their everyday lives, and often provide very accessible answers to many types of questions. However, as their purpose is not to provide scholarly information, students need to know the appropriate ways to use them in relation to school work.</p>	<p>Each question is posted by one individual; each answer clearly comes from one individual. Each author is identified by a self-selected alias, or online pen name.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  wiki.answers.com  answers.yahoo.com 	<p>Generally Q&A sites are useful as stepping stone resources, potentially providing better search terms (such as names and dates), but information from them should be confirmed independently. While they can be quite helpful to answer some types of questions, they are not intended to provide information appropriate for scholarly work.</p>
<p>Discussion lists (forums or groups): A member of a group posts a question or a comment and a conversation ensues about this post. The conversation, or thread, around an initial question tends to appear on a single page. One aspect of the comments in a discussion list that tends to differ from answers on a Q&A site, and even from comments on a blog, is that discussion lists are more interactive. Generally a given comment on a thread will tend to take comments before it into account, responding to, elaborating on, or giving feedback about what other authors have said. In the best cases, a conversation will lead to some sort of group consensus around ways to think about the original problem.</p>	<p>Anyone can contribute to a discussion list, though often they need to join the group first. Each time someone contributes a comment, it appears in its own box on the screen, along with the author's alias. People tend to pick and choose their list memberships carefully, and a good list is comprised of people with some expertise and around a topic and/or a willingness to partake in discussion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Google Help Forums  Tropical Fish Forum  Skyscraper City (urban architecture)  Airlines.net (aviation) 	<p>Some good uses of forums:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  locating subject experts,  crowdsourcing opinions/information among a knowledgeable group (even vicariously, by reading completed threads)  creating lists of resources or items in a category

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<p>Scholarly works: Formal journal articles and scholarly books are sources for highly authoritative information for school work. However, they are often at too high a reading level for students until they are in their high school careers.</p>	Clearly attributed at the start of a work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  "Txt Msg N School Literacy"  Soustealers: The Chinese Sourcery Scare of 1768  Structures of Change in the Mechanical Age  "Computational thinking and thinking about computing" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  experiencing scholarly debate around a topic  learning the theoretical frameworks through which the topic can be viewed  discovering results from studies on a topic  accessing primary sources
<p>Search engines: These are tools for finding content on the web based on the words that appear in the source.</p>	Generally, there is no content that actually belongs to these sites, they are tools used to search for sources that exist across the web. Therefore, a student should know not to say, "This information comes from Google," but rather to record the source to which Google points and where the student found the information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Google  Bing  Yahoo!  Wolfram Alpha 	To search for web pages/sites with information that is useful to a student's need.
<p>News/article sites: Traditionally an electronic version of a print publication, these sources may now either be an online-only publication or one that exists in both the print and Web versions. Although there are many sites that pull together news from a wide variety of sources (e.g., Google News, Yahoo! News, or PhysNews), in this case news or article sites are sources that are creating a lot of their own content.</p>	Generally one identified author per article.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  New York Times  Salon.com  Time for Kids  National Geographic 	These sites specialize in articles that allow students to move beyond the basics on a topic and dig deeper. Some news/article sites have a reputation for editorial quality that makes it easier to assess their credibility. Some sites also offer sections that look more like a reference work (e.g., National Geographic), and some also host blogs, and even put their articles into a blog-like format.

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<p>Databases/archives: A collection of digital information on a specific topic, usually offering one page on each item in the collection, with a set of subtitles that is consistent from page to page.</p>	<p>Sometimes it is challenging to figure out who created a database. For quality sources, it is usually listed on the homepage of the database or on an “About” or “Credits” page. Sometimes if only an author’s name is given without credentials, searchers who want to know the background of the database will need to search for that name with a few keywords related to the subject of the database to learn more. The best quality databases post guidelines for inclusion of information in the database.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  YouTube  Roller Coaster Database  Internet Movie Database  Baseball Salaries Database  The American Folk Song Collection  Bureau of Labor Statistics Database  War Diaries of the First World War  Ad*Access 	<p>Use databases to peruse a collection of information or to compare and contrast information on a topic. For example, when a student wants to discover soldiers of a certain surname who fought in various US wars, s/he can access databases of war records. To compare and contrast the uniforms US soldiers wore in those wars, s/he could also access a database of military uniforms.</p>
<p>Reference sources: A collection of information on a specific topic, making it easy to look up facts on that topic.</p>	<p>Authorship varies and may not be obvious. Reference works online might be created by one person, a group of volunteers, or a large team at an organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Google’s online dictionary  Encyclopedia Mythica  Google Maps  Zygote Body  Wikipedia 	<p>Generally, reference works are intended to be efficient ways to deliver facts on a topic in an easily useable and comprehensible format.</p>
<p>Documents: Pages that consist of uploaded documents in one file type or another or documents that are stored in the cloud.</p>	<p>Authorship varies and may not be obvious. Documents might be created by one person, a group of volunteers, or a large team at an organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  PDF files  Google Docs (documents, spreadsheets, presentations, etc.)  PowerPoint presentations  Excel spreadsheets  Word documents 	<p>The use depends on the kind of document and what it contains. Typically, a collection of numerical data will appear in a Google or Excel spreadsheet. Presentations that might contain useful graphs or examples of how to visually support a talk on a topic can appear in PowerPoint or as a Google presentation. Information that was created on paper, and thus had to be scanned to be uploaded (such as government reports or older documents), would appear in a PDF.</p>

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<p>Information pages:</p> <p>This catch-all category generally refers to pages that get used in much the same way one would traditionally use an article or a book.</p>	<p>Theoretically written by one person or a single organization, authorship may or may not be clear for an informational page. Be aware that there are very high quality informational pages, and also those that are not acceptable for academic use. In some cases, Lower-quality informational pages feel attractive because they are written at a more accessible reading level, appear comprehensive, and may have interesting backgrounds and illustrations or tell fantastical stories (e.g., pages on the mummy’s curse that sunk the Titanic).</p>	<p> Government websites: How Rome Went to China, Census Bureau’s Facts for Features for Women in History, 2011</p> <p> Organizational sites: Heifer Project on drought and education, Science Museum of Minnesota on King Tut, Google’s Our Philosophy</p> <p> Personal sites: Dan Russell’s Home Page & Site</p>	<p>This category is a catch-all for pages with a fair amount of textual content. They may have sales and marketing information; advocate for a philosophy or belief, or share information that is purely intended to be useful or interesting too others.</p>