



## Understand the difference between Vertical Reading and Lateral Reading

<p>A vertical line runs from up and down a page</p> 	<p>To move laterally means to move sideways.</p> 
<p>When I <b>read vertically</b>, I try to evaluate a website by staying on that website.</p>	<p>When I <b>read laterally</b>, I open a new tab or window in my browser, move away from the original site, and evaluate it from the broader web.</p>
<p>When I <b>read vertically</b>, I am judging the site only by what they say about themselves. I can be fooled by good design or false information on the site.</p>	<p>When I <b>read laterally</b>, I am working like a detective, trying to answer the question: <b>Is this site worth my time?</b> I consider how this site is viewed by others.</p>

### 1. Before I read a site closely, I need to answer these questions:

**Who is behind the information?**

**Why did they create it? Is the information trying to entertain, document, sell, provoke, inform, or persuade?**

### 2. Keeping these questions in mind, I open a new tab or window.

### 3. I search to see what others say about the website.

- I search using keywords such as the name of the website or names of the people or organizations associated with it.
- I scan through and consider the search results. Before I click on any of them, I read the titles, URLs, and short descriptions or snippets for clues. I look for trusted sources.
- Each new search may provide me with new clues that I can search in order to make a judgment about the site.

### 4. Once I decide it is a trustworthy site, I consider:

**Does the site provide me with enough current information about my subject? If it does, the site is relevant.**