When educators are assessing websites and course materials for use in their classes, it's essential to prioritize web accessibility to ensure that all students, including those with disabilities, can access and benefit from the content. Here are some key WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) criteria and accessibility best practices that are particularly important for educators to check:

**1. Text Alternatives (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 1.1, 1.2):** Ensure that all non-text content (images, graphs, charts) has descriptive alt text. This helps students using screen readers understand the content.

**2. Headings and Structure (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 2.4):** Use proper heading tags (H1, H2, H3) to create a clear and logical document structure. Headings should convey the hierarchy of information.

**3. Keyboard Accessibility (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 2.1):** Ensure all functionality and interactive elements can be operated using a keyboard alone. Students with motor disabilities may rely on keyboards for navigation.

**4. Focus Indicators (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 2.4.3, 2.4.7):** Ensure that there is a clear and visible focus indicator around interactive elements, such as links and form fields. This helps keyboard users understand where they are on the page.

**5. Color and Contrast (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 1.4.1, 1.4.6):** Use sufficient color contrast between text and background to make content readable for individuals with low vision or color blindness. Aim for a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1.

**6. Audio and Video Transcripts (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 1.2):** Provide transcripts for audio and video content. This assists students who are deaf or hard of hearing and allows all students to review content in a text format.

**7. Responsive Design (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 1.3.4, 1.4.4, 1.4.10, 2.5**): Ensure the website and materials are responsive and work well on various screen sizes and devices. This benefits students who use different technologies to access content.

**8.** **Forms and Interactive Elements (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 3.3, 4.1.2):** Create accessible forms with clear labels, instructions, and error messages. Ensure that all interactive elements are usable with assistive technologies.

**9. Language and Readability (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 3.1, 3.3):** Use plain language and avoid jargon. Keep sentences and paragraphs concise for easier comprehension, benefiting students with cognitive disabilities.

**10. Consistent Navigation (WCAG 2.2 Criterion 3.2):** Maintain a consistent layout and navigation structure throughout the website and course materials. Predictable navigation helps all users find content easily.

## Other Testing Best Practices

Prioritizing these WCAG criteria and accessibility best practices will help educators create inclusive digital learning environments that cater to the diverse needs of their students, making educational content more accessible to all.

**Testing with Assistive Technologies**: Regularly test your website and course materials using screen readers, keyboard navigation, and other assistive technologies to ensure they are usable by students with disabilities.

**User Testing:** Involve individuals with disabilities in usability testing to gather feedback and identify accessibility issues that may not be apparent otherwise.

**Accessibility Statements:** Include an accessibility statement on your website, indicating your commitment to accessibility and providing contact information for accessibility inquiries.