

Website Evaluation Guide for Researchers

Directions: Use this guide to help you decide if the web pages you are viewing are reliable sources for research. If you need help, ask the Library Media Teacher!

Website Name: _____

Website URL: _____

Authority:	Based on the information you found about the author, rate this source:
Who is the author? If you can't find the name, look at the top of the page or click through the other pages on the site looking for the author. Try the "About Us" page. Author: _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Credible</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Not Credible</div>
What makes the author an expert on this topic? What is the author's occupation , years of experience , education , or other facts that make him/her an expert? Expertise: _____	
List any connection the author has to a university, research laboratory, governmental agency, or other reputable organization related to the topic. Connection: _____	

Accuracy:	This information is:
Note any obvious errors on the page, including spelling or grammar errors. What does this suggest about the care in producing the page? Errors?: _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Accurate</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Not Accurate</div>
How does the information factually compare to information from other sources you've already read? Comparison: _____	
List any connection the author has to a university, research laboratory, governmental agency, or other reputable organization related to the topic. Connection: _____	

Objectivity & Purpose	This source is:
What is the Purpose of the website? To sell something? To provide information ? To convince you of something? What does the domain name (.com, gov, .org, .edu,.info) tell you about the purpose of the site? Purpose: _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Biased</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Not Biased</div>
If only one side of the argument is presented, what side is left out? Bias?: _____	
What is another resource or type of resource that might provide the other side of the story? Alternative Resource: _____	

Content, Coverage & Currency:	This information is:
If statistics are provided, how old is the data? How recent is the other information on the page? Does this make the information more or less valuable? How Recent, Current, and valuable?: _____	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Current</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100px; margin: 10px auto;">Not Current</div>
When was the page written? When was it last updated or revised? When Written/Updated?: _____	
Does the author provide a bibliography, works cited pages or footnotes that tell us where he/she got the information? Citations: _____	

Summary: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 50px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">Use</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 50px; margin: 5px auto; text-align: center;">Don't Use</div>	The best reasons for using or rejecting this website are? 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
--	--

