

Name: _____ Teacher: _____

WebSite Evaluation Checklist

Instructions: Fill out this evaluation checklist for each web source used in your bibliography. Tips for finding the most reliable sources include: 1) Using Google Advanced Search to build a boolean search (and, or, not). 2) Searching domain specific sites by including site: .edu, .org, or .gov in your search. 3) Using www.scholar.google.com for scholarly articles. 4) Limit your search to “News,” and only use reliable well-known sources like *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, or *CNN*.

WebSite Title:
Web Article Title:
URL:

Search TIP: Search for link: your URL to identify if other web sites have linked your article. Are those websites reliable? **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Authority - Use the following questions to determine credibility of the author. If the information is not on the website, write <i>NOT FOUND</i> TIP: Look for a section called “Staff”, “Contact”, “FAQ”, or “Biography”
Author name:
Author Qualifications or Credentials:
Publisher:

Search TIP: Search for author: your author’s name to identify other articles written by your author. Are they published on credible websites? **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Currency - It is important to know the date an article was published and when the website was last updated. If not available, write NOT FOUND. TIP: Look for this information at the top and bottom of a website.
Article Publication Date:
Website creation date: _____ Last update: _____
Does your article contain any broken links? Yes _____ No _____

Search TIP: Use Google Search Tools to limit your results by time, you can choose a custom time or search within the last year, month, week, or day.

Purpose/Objectivity: Use this section to determine if the website or author has a **bias** or prejudice to one side of an issue. Determine the **aim** of the author/publisher. **TIP:** Look at the host website (shorten URL up to .domain), and look for a mission statement or “About” section.

Are both sides of an issue presented?

Is the majority of the article fact, or opinion?

Are arguments well supported (citations provided)?

Does the website contain advertising?

What is the purpose of the website (to inform, persuade, entertain, sell something, etc)?

Search TIP: Is your research assignment a pro/con argument, or fact based? A bias that supports your claim may be acceptable as long as you identify the organization behind the source. .org and .com websites are more likely to have bias.

Accuracy: Any website can claim something is true, use this section to **verify facts**.

Is there a list of references (works cited or bibliography)?

Can facts be verified (are they in more than one source)?

If there are links to other sources, are they reliable?

Is your web article free from spelling and grammar errors?

Search TIPS: Copy and paste the references from your article into a search engine to verify they exist. You can also verify facts by searching for those facts in “quotation marks.”

Evaluation

Based upon your answers above, in your own words explain why this website and article is a credible source of information: