

Evaluating Websites

Name of site: _____ URL: _____

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Examine the website carefully using the questions in each category to determine if the website meets your needs. At the end of each category assign a score to the website.

Scoring Categories: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree
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Authority/Accuracy

- Is the page signed? Authors of credible sites will provide information to support the reliability of information. Does the author provide contact information (email)? What are the author's credentials? Is he an expert in his field?
- What does the URL tell you? Is it someone's personal page? Check the URL for the following: personal name preceded by (~), hosted by aol.com, angelfire, geocities. What type of domain does it come from? (Government sites=.gov., mil, us. Educational sites=.edu, nonprofit=.org..)
- Are sources documented with links or footnotes?
- Does the page contain misspelled words or bad grammar?

This is an authoritative source with good supporting information: **1 2 3 4 5**

Objectivity

- Does the information appear slanted, designed to sway your opinion? Is the advertising clearly separated from the informational aspects of the page?

This site shows minimal bias. **1 2 3 4 5**

Currency

- Is the page dated? Undated factual or statistical information is usually not reliable.
- How current is the topic being researched? Does it demand up-to-the-minute information?
- When was the page last updated? Are the links current and working?

This source provides current information related to my topic. **1 2 3 4 5**

Coverage

- What topics does the page cover?
- Is this source as good as available print or database sources in the Library?

This source provides information that is not available elsewhere. **1 2 3 4 5**

Expectation (Purpose)

- What is the goal of the page? (inform, entertain, persuade, sell) Be cautious examining sites that are trying to sell you something.
- Is the site intended as a satire or parody?

The goal of this site matches your research objectives.

1 2 3 4 5

Total Score	_____	/25
21-25	excellent source	
16-20	worth examining	
15 and below	keep looking!	