

***J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Libraries***

*Your first stop for information and research needs!*

***Information Literacy Assessment – 6. Evaluate Sources***

**Name:**  **Date:**

1. In our information rich environment, it is important for the serious researcher to be able to know if the information they use is (*Select one*):
   1. trustworthy
   2. approved by the U.S. government
   3. both a and b
   4. on Wikipedia
2. Web pages are easy to make and can be hosted inexpensively, so evaluating web sources is necessary when doing research. Which of the following is important when evaluating a web site? (*Select one*)
   1. The web browser you are using (e.g., *Explorer* or *Firefox*).
   2. The qualifications of the author or sponsor of the web page.
   3. Where the webmaster received his or her training.
   4. Whether the site is using ASCII or JavaScript.
3. One way to substantiate the credibility of an author of either print or electronic information is to (*Select one*):
   1. Do a search of the author’s name to evaluate his or her background or credentials.
   2. Contact the webmaster.
   3. Check to see if the author’s name is at the top of the web page.
   4. Check to see if the author’s name is listed more than three times on the web page.
4. The domain name of a web site can help to assess the possible bias of the content.

Match the following domain with its definition and possible bias.

.com

.edu

.org

.gov

Commercial entity (trying to sell something)

U.S. government site (information to assist U.S. citizens)

Educational institution (trying to educate students)

Nonprofit organization (looking for support monetarily or philosophically)

1. Which of the following criteria is NOT important when evaluating a web site (Select one):
   1. Purpose of the site (i.e., is it meant to entertain, educate, persuade, etc.).
   2. Date of the information on the site.
   3. Name of the author or sponsor of the site.
   4. Gender of the author of the site.
2. Editorial review or peer review of information increases the trustworthiness of the information. (Select one)
   1. True
   2. False
3. Editorial review is a feature found more frequently in (Select one):
   1. Traditionally published forms of information such as books or journals.
   2. Information found on the open web.
4. Which of the following criteria can be used when evaluating the trustworthiness of the information found in print or online sources (Select one):
   1. Timeliness or currency
   2. Authority (the qualifications of the author)
   3. Accuracy
   4. All of the above
5. Wikipedia is the world’s largest encyclopedia. It is more dynamic and interactive than print volumes of an encyclopedia. However, students should use caution when using Wikipedia for academic research because (Check all that apply):

**Anyone can add or change content.**

**Authors of articles may not necessarily be experts on the topics they write about.**

**The fact that what you read on Monday may disappear or have changed by**

**Wednesday.**

An encyclopedia, whether print or online, is not always an appropriate type of resource

for your research assignment.

1. In school you may have learned to use the five Ws when writing a news article or doing a research project. When evaluating online resources, it is helpful to use the four Ws & one H. Which of the following is NOTone of the four Ws of web site evaluation? (Select one)

When

What

Why

Wisdom

Who