

Evaluating Website Checklist

Name: _____

Period: _____ PC #: _____

No one judges the quality or accuracy of information found on the World Wide Web before it is published, so you must evaluate what you find for yourself. Some sites are created by experts; for example, the University of Maryland Libraries site is authored by librarians who have expertise in the field of information science. However, the vast majority of World Wide Web sites are designed and authored by non-experts. Use the checklist below to help you evaluate your source.

Currency	Yes	No
Was the information published recently?		
Has the content on the website been revised or updated recently?		
Is the information up-to date?		
Are links or references to other sources up to date?		

Authority	Yes	No
Is the author identified?		
Is the author affiliated with an educational institution or prominent organization?		
Is the author an expert in this field?		
Do other books or articles cite the author?		
Does the author cite his or her sources?		

Accuracy	Yes	No
Is the website free of spelling and other obvious errors?		
Does it generally agree with other sources for similar information?		
Is documentation or evidence provided for the authors argument?		
Does the page cite well known sources or authorities?		
Is there a description of the research methods used to obtain data?		
Do links on the site function and lead to other sites of good quality?		

Relevance	Yes	No
Does the information add to or support your research question?		
Does the information meet the stated requirements of the assignment?		
Does the article provide references that are also useful?		
Does the source add something new to your knowledge of your topic?		

Purpose	Yes	No
Does the website present information in an objective manner?		
Are all sides of an issue represented?		
If not, can you determine the sites bias?		
Based on your knowledge, is the information presented factual rather than opinion?		

Pick and circle one of the websites below to evaluate. **Make sure** you choose a site that is different than your neighboring students.

All About Explorers	https://allaboutexplorers.com/
Dihydrogen Monoxide Research Division	http://www.dhmo.org/
Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus	http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/
Aluminum Foil Deflector Beanie	http://zapatopi.net/afdb/
The Jackalope Conspiracy	http://www.sudftw.com/jackcon.htm
Republic of Molossia	http://www.molossia.org/countryeng.html
Dog Island	http://www.thedogisland.com/