

## Website Evaluation Checklist

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Block \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name of Website: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name of Page or Article: \_\_\_\_\_

\*URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you find these elements?	Circle one:	Do you still have questions, concerns, doubts? Please list them.
<b>A. Authority/Accuracy</b> Who wrote this site? Where is the information from?		
I can find the author's name. <b>*Author's Name:</b>	Yes   No	
I can find the author's biography.	Yes   No	
Based on the author's credentials, he/she is a good source of information on this subject.	Yes   No	
I can find the author's contact information (email, phone#, and/or address).	Yes   No	
I can identify the group or academic institution with which the author is associated.	Yes   No	
I can find sources for information the author lists.	Yes   No	
I can verify the information in at least 2 other sources.	Yes   No	
I see no errors in spelling, grammar or facts.	Yes   No	
<b>B. Bias</b> What is the purpose of this site? Why was this site published?		
I can find who sponsored the site (paid for it). <b>*Name of group:</b>	Yes   No	
I can determine the purpose of the site.	Yes   No	
The purpose is to... (circle all that apply)   Inform   Trick   Persuade   Explain   Sell items Explain how you can tell:		
<b>C. Currency</b> When was this information updated?		
I can find the date the <b>webpage</b> was last updated. <b>*Date of webpage update:</b>	Yes   No	
The <b>information</b> has been updated with current findings. (Statistics and science/ technology sites especially.)	Yes   No	
Links are up-to-date and active.	Yes   No	

**\*These pieces of information are necessary for your works cited page.**

Overall this site is     Excellent     Good     Fair     Not Credible     because:  
(Please describe the evidence that justifies your choice)

## Tips:

### A. Authority/Accuracy

- Who is the author— look at the top/end of the article or site; try ‘Home’ or ‘About Us’ button. You may not find it, but you **MUST** look for it. Often the organization that sponsored the site is responsible for the content.
- Why is the writer an expert; what background? Google the name. Is the person affiliated with a university or respected organization? What does **NO** information tell you?
- Hopefully the author tells where the information came from—books, articles, or other web sites. These citations are found at the end of an article.
- **ALWAYS** verify information you find on the web. Is this the only place you find this information or have you seen it in other sources?
- Do you see any errors on the page—spelling, grammar, facts?
- Do too many ads make it hard to get to the real information?

### B. Bias/Purpose

- What group sponsors the site? Do not be confused by the creator of the webpage design. Who owns the copyright?
- What is the group’s purpose—use the ‘About Us’ or ‘Home’ buttons.
- Why is this site online? To sell something (good information can come from these!); to persuade you of an idea or belief; solely for information, or just for entertainment? Does the domain name (.edu, .gov, .net, .org) give you clues? Importantly, be alert to one sided content.
- Advertisements – is it easy to tell the ads from the content?
- Test the links—where do they take you? To other sites or merely around the same site. A site that links to other sites may give you clues.

### C. Currency

- What is the posting, copyright or creation date—look at the end of the page or site.
- Often articles have one date and the site has a copyright date that is different. You need both dates for your works cited. **Some sites have automatic date updating – watch out!**
- Test some links—have they been updated or are they dead and outdated?
- Information should be consistent with current findings from other sources.
- It is easy to keep web sites up to date; be suspicious of outdated information.

Updated 9/3/2013

Adapted from:

Abarbanel, Elisabeth. “ABCs of Website Evaluation: libguide.” *Brentwood School, East Campus Library*. Los Angeles, Ca. 2011. Web. 30 Apr. 2013. <http://bwscampus.libguides.com/ABCsWebEval>

Steinhauser C. “Website Evaluation Checklist”. *AW Coolidge Middle School*. Reading, MA. March 2011. Web. 30 Apr. 2013.