

Name: _____

Date: _____



Evaluating Websites: A Checklist

Use this checklist to help you decide whether or not a website gives you the type of information you need. Remember we're using the criteria of authority, objectivity, currency, accuracy, and usefulness of a website. Don't be afraid to make some notes as well: what you like, don't like, find helpful, or have questions about...

Website Name: _____

Website URL: _____

| Authority | yes or no | Notes |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| Is the author of the site clearly identified? | | |
| Is the author well-respected or an expert? | | |
| Is there contact information for the author? | | |
| | | |
| Objectivity | yes or no | Notes |
| Is the purpose of the website clear | | |
| Is the website biased or balanced in the way that it presents information? | | |
| What is the website not telling you? | | |
| Is the website trying to sell you something? | | |
| | | |

| Currency | yes or no | Notes |
|---|------------------|--------------|
| When was the site created? | | |
| When was the site last updated? | | |
| Are the links up-to-date or have they expired? | | |
| | | |
| Accuracy | yes or no | Notes |
| Is the correct spelling and grammar used? | | |
| Is there a reference list (or links to other websites) to show where the information came from? | | |
| Are you able to verify (confirm) the information in another book/website/magazine? | | |
| | | |
| Usefulness | yes or no | Notes |
| Does the website load quickly? | | |
| Is it easy to read and navigate? | | |
| Has it been designed clearly and logically? | | |
| Is this the right website for you: are you the intended audience? | | |
| | | |

Compare the number of “yes” to “no” answers and give the website a rating.
 Would you give this website: (circle one)

- ★★★★★ —This is a great site: don’t pass it up!
- ★★★★ —This is a good site: definitely worth using.
- ★★★ —This is an OK site: make sure to double-check information in another resource.
- ★★ —This is a so-so site: best to try and find something better.
- ★ —Yikes: stay away!