

Evaluating a Website

Grade all websites you intend to use for class projects using the rubric.

Address of site: _____

Criteria	Evaluation Techniques	0	1	2	3
Coverage: Is the info. relevant, & important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much information is there? Is most of the information important & relevant to your topic 	Less than one page of relevant information.	One to two pages of information; not all relevant/important.	Two to three pages; mostly relevant/important.	Two or more pages of relevant/important information.
Credentials: Who is responsible for the information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is his or her name listed? Can you figure out what makes the author an expert? (Look for an <u>about me</u> link) Google the authors' names 	The author is probably a student. Errors indicate that the author is not an expert.	The author is unnamed and/or no credentials are given.	The author is named but credentials and contact information is incomplete.	Credentials are given and indicate that author is an expert. Email or contact info. provided.
Does the resource have a reputable organization behind it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the organization's name prominent? Is there an <u>about us</u> link? Truncate the URL to get to homepage (erase the end of the url back to the part that ends with .com, or .gov etc.) Search who owns the site (http://www.betterwhois.com/) Who else links to the site? Use Google to do a link: field search 	The page is hosted by an individual. (The home page is a personal page hosted by an Internet service provider such as AOL, Yahoo, or Juno.) .com site with no affiliation	Any of these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home page is a K-12 site The home page is a student folder on a .edu site. The home page is an unknown .com or .org 	The home page is sponsored by a known business, professional association, organization, museum, or university.	A government department or agency is the home page. OR The domain is .edu and faculty maintain the site.
Accuracy: Where did the author get this information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a bibliography or footnotes? Is there a statement giving credit for the source of information? Do those sources appear reliable? 	No sources or works cited is given.	There is a general statement about the source of the information, but no specific works cited list.	There is a works cited list and/or a bibliography for further information.	There is a works cited list and/or a bibliography for further info. Photos are labeled and cited.
Currency: When was the info. written & last updated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there an update date listed at the top or bottom of the page? Is there a copyright date at the bottom? 	There is no indication of when the site was created or revised.	The date given for the site's creation is over 3 years old; no date of revision or update.	The site has been created or updated within the last 3 years.	Created or updated less than two years. Sources referenced are current.
Objectivity: Does the information seem fairly represented, or is it biased?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does author's identity suggest bias? Does the info. give you a complete picture, rather than a one-sided account? Is there a clear distinction between ads and the actual content? If the information is biased, is it still useful? 	The purpose is personal or too much advertising is distracting.	Purpose is to sell, persuade, or give bias view. Some factual info. or useful pictures but focus is to promote something.	Offers some factual information. Sides unbalanced; some bias or advertising.	The purpose is to support scholarly research with factual information. Complete picture.
What does the score mean?	Total Points: _____	0 to 6 pts Highly questionable source.	7 to 10 pts Useful for ideas or casual projects. Do not cite as a reference for a research paper or project.	11 to 14 pts Good source for a research paper or academic project. Confirm with other sources.	15 to 18 pts Excellent source for research.