

Web Evaluation Worksheet

(Jim Kapoun's "Five Criteria for Evaluating Web Pages" was used to design this worksheet.)

Web Search

Title of the website/document: _____

URL: _____

Website Evaluation

1. Accuracy

A. What group or person is responsible for the website or the information on the website?

B. Can you find contact information for that group or person? Yes No

C. What is the purpose of the website? Is the website intended to advocate, sell, slander, inform, etc.? Is it ironic, i.e. a satire or parody? How can you tell what its purpose is?

2. Authority

A. What type of domain name does the website have?

.com .org .edu .gov .net

Or, does it have some other domain?

B. Is the author or organization a qualified source? How can you tell? What credentials and/or affiliations listed on the website show evidence of authority?

3. Objectivity

You might want to refer to your answer for 1C to help you with the following questions.

A. Who is the intended audience for the website (i.e. student, professional, general, etc.)? What helped you decide who the intended audience is?

B. Does the website have a bias? If so, describe the position taken on the issue?

C. If it appears the website has a bias, give an example of the loaded language that helped you recognize it.

D. Are the statements, opinions, and/or statistics given on the website supported with references? Give an example.

4. Currency

A. When was the website updated last?

B. Is the information on the website out-of-date? If the information on the website is out-of-date, give an example.

C. Do the links appear to be working? And, are they related to the topic/s of the website? Give an example.

5. Coverage

A. Can you obtain information on this website for free or is there a fee?

Free

Fee

B. Does the website require any special software to view its contents?

C. Is the website easy to navigate or is it difficult to use for some reason (for example, overwhelmed with graphics or congested with text)?

Yes

No