Website Evaluation Checklist

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| **Title of the Overall Website:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Title of the Specific Page:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | |
| **Authority** | |
| ***Tips:*** *To help determine the author’s expertise, look at the links: “About us,” “FAQ,” "Background," or "Biography.”* | |
| Is it clear who the author of the website is? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Has the author provided contact information (like name, email, phone number, or address)? | ☐Y ☐N |
| If there is no personal author, is an editor, publisher, or institution provided along with contact information? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Does the individual or organization list its qualifications or credentials? | ☐Y ☐N |
| **Accuracy** | |
| ***Tips:*** *Since anyone can publish a website, be sure that the information in the website is accurate and verifiable.* | |
| Based on the reading you have already done on the subject, does the information on the site seem accurate? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Is factual information referenced in footnotes or a Works Cited? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Are there few grammar and spelling mistakes? | ☐Y ☐N |
| If there are links to other pages, are they to reliable sources? | ☐Y ☐N |

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| **Timeliness** | | |
| ***Tips:*** *Keep in mind that out-of-date information, even if it was factual, is potentially incorrect. Not knowing the date of publication can call into question its accuracy. Check the top or bottom of a web page to look for the creation date or revision date.* | | |
| Is there a date that shows when the site was created or last updated? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Does the site contain “broken” links? | ☐Y ☐N |
| **Objectivity** | | |
| ***Tips:*** *Look for objective sites that present information with a minimum of bias and without the intention to persuade. Determine the aim of the author or organization publishing the site.* | | |
| Does the website avoid advertising that may hold a conflict of interest with the content? | ☐Y ☐N |
| If a debatable issue is covered, are both sides presented? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Do you trust the author or organization that has created the website? | ☐Y ☐N |
| **Purpose** | | |
| ***Tips:*** *Looking at the URL of the site can help you determine its purpose. Judge whether the website is geared to a scholarly or non-professional audience.* | | |
| Does the website have an .edu or .gov ending in its URL? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Does the website avoid trying to persuade or sell something? | ☐Y ☐N |
| Is the information on the site relevant to your needs? | ☐Y ☐N |