Website Evaluation Guide for Students

Use this guide to help you decide whether or not the web pages you are viewing are reliable sources for research. Need help? Ask your librarian!

Author	Based on the information you found about the author, rate this source:
Who is the author? Can't find a name? Look at the top and bottom of the page. Click through other pages on the site to see if an author is listed.	☐ Credible
What makes the author an expert on this topic? What do you learn about the author's occupation, years of experience, education, or other facts that make them an expert?	☐ Not Credible
What connections does the author have? List any connections the author has to a university, research laboratory, government agency, or other reputable organization related to the topic.	

Purpose	Based on what you found out about the purpose, rate this source:
What is the purpose of the website? To sell something? To provide information? To convince you of something? What does the domain name (.com, .gov, .edu, .biz, .org) tell you about the purpose of the site?	☐ Biased
Are all viewpoints presented? If only one side of the argument is presented, what viewpoint is left out?	☐ Not Biased
What is left out? What other resources or information might be able to provide you with the other side of the story?	

Accuracy	The information on this page is:
Obvious mistakes Note any obvious errors on the page, including spelling or grammar errors. What do these errors suggest about care in producing the page?	☐ Accurate
Correct facts How does the information factually compare to information from other sources you have already read?	☐ Not Accurate

Content and Currency	The information on this page is:
If statistics are provided, how old is the data?	
How recent is the other information on the page? Does this make the information more or less valuable?	☐ Current
When was the page written? When was it last revised?	☐ Cited
Does the author provide a bibliography, works cited page, or footnotes that tell us where they got their information?	☐ Not Current ☐ Not Cited

Summary:	The best reasons for using or rejecting this website are: