

Name:

Block:

Evaluating a Website

Caution: Much of the information on the Internet has been posted without first going through editorial review. You must be the judge as to the value of content found on the WWW.

Research Topic:

Title of Website:

Sponsoring Organization:



1. Do you easily understand the content on the website? Can you put the information into your own words during the note-taking process?

A. Yes I can!

Answer:

B. No, this is too complicated to easily understand.

++ If your answer is B, then go back to your search!! ++

2. How can you tell the sponsoring organization is qualified to post information on this topic?

A. It is and I can tell because ...

Answer:

B. Oops! The group behind this website is not qualified to be providing this type of information.

C. I can't tell who is responsible for the web content.

++ If you answer is either B or C, then go back to your search!! ++

3. What is the author's purpose for posting this content? Can you detect any possible bias in the information?

A. The purpose is ...

B. I really can't tell the purpose.

Possible Purposes of a Website

- Inform
- Instruct
- Entertain
- Persuade
- Personal (including blog, listserv posting, etc)

++ If your answer is B, then go back to your search!! ++

4. Where on the website is the bibliography or list of sources used by content author?

A. There is one and it's located ...

Answer:

B. There isn't one, but the sponsoring organization is reputable.

C. There isn't one and the sponsoring organization is questionable.

++ If your answer is C, then go back to your search!! ++

5. Is the information on the website accurate, with no grammatical, spelling or content mistakes? Is the information timely?

A. Yes it looks good.

B. Only a minor typo.

C. More than one error.

++ If your answer is B, use the information with caution. There might be more errors.

++ If your answer is C, use the information with caution and double-check facts with a print source ++