



Speech • Persuasive Speech • Website Evaluation Tool

Instructions

IN ORDER TO ASSESS the validity of a web source you wish to use for your persuasive speech, you must complete the following tool. NOTE: this does *not* apply to web databases accessed through the library.

Title _____ Web Address _____

Step One

FOR EACH STATEMENT BELOW, check **Y** (yes) if the statement applies to the website and **N** (no/not sure) if the statement does not apply.

AUTHORITY/CREDIBILITY	Y	N
1. Is the site's author/producer clearly identified?		
2. Does the site provide credentials for the author/producer?		
ACCURACY	Y	N
1. Is the information consistent with other resources on the topic?		
2. Does the site provide references you can use to verify its accuracy?		
BIAS/OBJECTIVITY	Y	N
1. Does the site express more than one viewpoint or opinion?		
2. Is the site free of advertising?		
TIMELINESS	Y	N
1. Does the site state when it was created/compiled?		
2. Can you determine if the site has been updated recently?		
COVERAGE	Y	N
1. Does the site cover a time period appropriate for your topic?		
2. Does the site cover your topic in enough depth for your needs?		
RELEVANCE/APPROPRIATENESS	Y	N
1. Does the site provide comprehensive information that is relevant to your topic?		
2. Does the site direct its information at a level appropriate for your needs?		

Step Two

RATE THE SITE by totaling the number of **Y** (yes) responses: _____ Ys, then check it against the guide below.

Y RESPONSE TOTAL	SITE RANKING
9 – 12	CREDIBLE SITE: Convincing evidence exists.
6 – 8	AMBIVALENT SITE: Inconclusive evidence exists.
0 – 5	RED FLAG SITE: Insufficient evidence exists.