

Identifying High-Quality Sites

Name of Site

URL

Website Test

Purpose of the Site	Circle one	Add details to explain
1. Can you tell if the site is fact or opinion? (If the information seems one-sided, or biased, you will have to go elsewhere to hear the other side of the issue.)	YES NO	
2. Is the site free of advertising?	YES NO	
3. If there are ads, is it easy to tell the difference between ads and content?	YES NO	
4. Is the site sponsored by any organizations?	YES NO	
5. Is it clear who the site is for? (for example, college students or young children)	YES NO	
6. Is the tone calm and fair? (Sites that are mean and angry may not be good sources of information.)	YES NO	
7. Is the site open to everyone? (no age requirements, fees, passwords, or registration)	YES NO	
8. Is the site's domain .edu, .net, .org, or .gov? (If you see a ~ in the URL, it may be a personal site, not an official site.)	YES NO	

Trustworthiness of the Author	Circle one	Add details to explain
9. Is the author identified by name?	YES NO	
10. Is the place the author works or the organization he/she belongs to given?	YES NO	
11. Is the author's biography provided, and does he/she have credentials related to the subject of the site?	YES NO	
12. Has the author or site received any respected awards?	YES NO	
13. Was this site recommended by a site you trust? (for example, by a homework help site)	YES NO	
14. Were any sources provided by the author?	YES NO	
15. Can the author be contacted if you have questions? (by email, street address, or phone number)	YES NO	
16. Is the site free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors?	YES NO	
Usefulness of Information	Circle one	Add details to explain
17. Does the site have enough information for your research?	YES NO	
18. Is most of the information on the site useful for your research? (If not, it may be hard to find what you need.)	YES NO	
Up-to-Date Information	Circle one	Add details to explain
19. Can you find the date the article, page, or site was created?	YES NO	

20. Can you find the date it was last revised?	YES NO	
21. Do all the links lead to active pages? (no dead links)	YES NO	
Ease of Use	Circle one	Add details to explain
22. Can you understand the text?	YES NO	
23. Is the type easy to see?	YES NO	
24. Do the titles and headings give a clear idea of the content?	YES NO	
25. Are there photos, maps, charts, or other illustrations that help you understand the information?	YES NO	
26. Is there a site map?	YES NO	
27. Is there a tool for searching the site?	YES NO	
28. Is there a “what’s new” feature?	YES NO	
29. Are links labeled clearly?	YES NO	
30. Do pages load quickly?	YES NO	

How many times did you circle YES? _____ out of a total of 30

Score your site!

25 – 30: You’ve got a winner! You can trust the information on your site, and it’s easy to use, too!

15 – 25: Proceed with caution. If you use any information from your site, be sure to fact check it on a site you can trust. You can also quote the author’s opinion, but make sure you say that’s what it is.

0 – 15: Sorry, your site is a dud. It isn’t safe to use this site as a source of information, so find a better one.