Website Evaluation Form

<u>Directions</u>: For each website you use, fill out this form completely, circling your response and filling in the required information. Be a savvy information consumer!!

Name/Title of the Site_____

Complete Site Address _____

Credibility: The quality and knowledge of the person who created the website

1. Who is the author of the site? _____   Can't tell

2. What are his/her credentials, education, or experience that proves s/he has a background in the topic? _____   Can't tell

3. What is the domain of this site (i.e., .com, .gov, etc.)? _____
   .gov, .edu, and .mil are the MOST reliable ** .com, .net, .org are LESS reliable

Accuracy: Freedom from mistakes or errors

4. Can facts, statistics, or other information be verified through other sources? In other words, have you seen the same facts on other websites or in books about the topic? (<u>You will need to visit other sites or look at some print sources to verify these facts!!</u>)   Yes   No

5. List at least one other site or print source that can verify the facts:_____
   _____

6. Are there spelling and/or grammar mistakes on the page?   Yes   No

Reliability: The extent to which a source can be counted on to give objective, unbiased information

7. Does the source present a particular point of view or bias?   Yes   No

8. Is the information affiliated with an organization that has a particular political or social agenda?   Yes   No

Date: The time at which a source was published, produced, or last updated

9. When was the page created or last updated? _____   Can't tell

10. Is this a reasonable date for your topic?   Yes   No
    (Some topics, like those in science, need to be as current as possible because the information changes; however other topics, like those in history, do not need to be as current since the information does not generally change too drastically.)

Scope: The range of information on a given topic

11. Does this source have enough information to answer your research question?   Yes   No

12. Is it material that you can easily read and understand, so it's not too technical, but also technical enough that it's clearly not meant for elementary school kids?   Yes   No

Purpose: The reason the website was created

13. Was this website created to **sell a product**?   Yes   No

14. Was this website created to **persuade** you to think a certain way or do something?   Yes   No

15. Was this website created to **entertain** you?   Yes   No

16. Was this website created to **inform** you?   Yes   No

17. **BOTTOM LINE: THIS SITE IS APPROPRIATE TO USE.   Yes   No**