

# Form: Website Evaluation

This form is designed to help you evaluate the quality of a website. It is not meant to be a test for you, but rather for the website itself. Remember that you want your sources to be of the highest quality—filled with accurate information, reviewed by a subject matter expert, well-written, and easy to understand.

Advertising is fine, as it helps websites survive, but it should be clearly separated from the useful text. Links to primary sources or additional information, useful photos and videos, and a clear purpose also help to improve a website's quality. Finally, consider the author's bias. Can you detect a political or philosophical agenda? Does the site give equal weight to both sides of the issues? Putting all of the information you have together, is it a good website to use for research?

## Questions to Ask

What is the title of the website?

What is the website address (URL)?

What is the top-level domain (noted in the three letters at the end of the domain name)?

company (.com)

university or museum (.edu)

government (.gov)

military (.mil)

network (.net)

non-profit organization (.org)

country (such as .ca for Canada, or .lv for Latvia)

other ( .biz, .tv, .info)

Who runs this site? Is he or she a subject matter expert? If not, is the material reviewed by an independent subject matter expert?

With what institution(s) is the subject matter expert associated?

K-12 school

university

government agency

organization

company

other

Does the site give contact information?

Yes

No

If so, what contact options are available?

Does the site contain both text and graphics?

Yes

No

Does the site provide multimedia (images, videos, audio clips, interactivity, etc.)?

Yes

No

Do the graphics and/or multimedia contribute to the topic in a meaningful way?

Yes

No

Does the site include advertising?

Yes

No

If yes, is the advertising separated from the main information?

Yes

No

Is the material at this site a primary source, a secondary source, or something else?

What is the main purpose of the site?

to inform

to persuade

to entertain

Does the site have a clear political or philosophical agenda?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the political or philosophical agenda?

Is the site current?

Yes

No

When was the site last updated?

Are there links on the page relating to the topic?

Yes

No

Are the links broken?

Yes

No

Are the links useful?

Yes

No

How would you rate this web page?

Use with caution

Good basic information

Excellent for this assignment

Comments/additional notes