

Name: _____ Date: _____

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A WEB SITE - MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL

| | |
|---|---------|
| What's the webpage's URL? (UNIVERSAL RESOURCE LOCATOR) | http:// |
| Who is the author? | |
| Who is the publisher? (Author's organization affiliation) | |
| What is the domain? Does it mean something? | |

Part 1: Looking at and using your webpage, put an X in the yes or no column for each.

| 1. WHO IS THE AUTHOR? | YES | NO |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Is there a link for "About Us", "Philosophy", "Background", "Biography"? | | |
| Did the author use his/her real name? | | |
| Did the author give you his/her e-mail address? | | |
| 2. IS THE AUTHOR CREDIBLE? | | |
| Is the author reputable? (Google author name in quotes and without) | | |
| Does the author tell you about him/herself? | | |
| Is information footnoted? | | |
| Do you feel that the author is knowledgeable about the topic? | | |
| 3. IS THE SITE CURRENT? | | |
| Is there a date on the page that tells you when it was last updated? | | |
| Can you tell if the information on the page is current? | | |
| Does up-to-date information make a difference for your project? | | |

Part 2: What's on the page and why is it there?

As you look at the questions below, put an X in the yes or no column for each.

| | YES | NO |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 4. IS THE SITE OBJECTIVE? | | |
| Is there a paragraph on the page explaining what the site is about? | | |
| Does the author of the page present some information that you think is wrong? | | |
| Does some information contradict information you found elsewhere? | | |
| Does the author of the page present some information you disagree with? | | |
| Does the author use superlative words (like the "best" or "worst")? | | |
| Does the author use some absolute words (like "always" or "never")? | | |
| Are there many links to the page? Use Alexa.com OR Google Link:URLname | | |
| Are you positive the information is true? | | |
| If there are photographs on the page, can you be sure that they have not been changed by the author? (If you're not sure, don't accept photos as true) | | |
| What is the purpose of the website? | Inform | Persuade |
| | Sell | Humor |

