Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluating Internet Research**

Reliability

* Books, government documents, articles and news broadcasts are reviewed by editors before publication.
* Web pages can be written by anyone without any review before going online.
* Reliable information is written by an author who has experience with a subject and/or cites research from well-known authorities.
* Does your web source have an author?

Purpose

* Educational (.edu) and governmental (.gov) websites generally publish factual information so people can become more informed about a topic. (Although be careful of homepages posted by students at a particular university site).
* Commercial news sites ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) generally provide factual reporting as well with commentary added in editorials and columns.
* Carefully review the claims of all Web sources, but especially those types of sites ending in .org, .net, .com, or others

Balance

* Personal opinions and personal bias are often times displayed in many publications. Editorials and columns online may contain facts, but mostly feature the writer’s opinion or bias toward an issue.
* Consider using different viewpoints on an issue to provide balance to a research paper.

Currency

* Review the date listed on the Web page to see if the information posted is current or not.
* If possible, compare data from one website against another source to determine currency.

**Evaluating Internet Research Checklist**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Source 1** | **Source 2** | **Source 3** | **Source 4** |
| **Reliability** |  |  |  |  |
| Is an author listed? |  |  |  |  |
| Is there information on the author’s background? |  |  |  |  |
| Does the info provided on this site match up with info found on other sites? |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Purpose** |  |  |  |  |
| Is the purpose of the website listed (usually near the title)? |  |  |  |  |
| What kind of page is it (.com, .gov, .org)? |  |  |  |  |
| Is the author trying to sway your opinion, sell you something, or present facts/research results? What clues point you to think this? |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Balance** |  |  |  |  |
| Are there several sides of an issue included on the page? |  |  |  |  |
| Does the author state his/her opinion? |  |  |  |  |
| Is supporting information, such as statistics/examples provided? |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Currency** |  |  |  |  |
| Is there a date on the page? |  |  |  |  |
| Is the info on the page recent or old? |  |  |  |  |