
Use the list below to help you evaluate websites. Answer the questions and rank each of them from 1 to 10 (1 = very unreliable, 10 = very reliable). Finally, add up the scores for an idea of general reliability of the website.

Who created the website or its contents? Points ____

- Who are the author(s), publisher(s), and sponsor(s) of the content? ________________________________
- Are their credentials or organizational affiliations given and verifiable? ____________________________
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations? _________________________________
- What are the author’s qualifications to write on the topic? ______________________________________
- Is there contact information, such as author and publisher e-mail addresses? ______________________
- Do the author(s) and publisher take responsibility for the accuracy of the content?__________________
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?______________________________________

Where is the information coming from? Points ____

- What is the domain type? ___________________________________________________________________
- Does the domain type contain a country code? _________________________________________________
- Do the parts of the URL match the name of the institution/organization on the page? _____________
- If it is a .edu URL, is it from a student page, department or faculty page? _________________________
- Is the domain owner the same entity represented on the website (based on a WhoIs search)?___________

What is the website about? Points ____

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?_______________________________
- Who is the intended audience? ______________________________________________________________
- Is the information at an appropriate level?____________________________________________________
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?_______________________________

When was the information created? Points ____

- When was the information published or posted?_________________________________________________
- Has it been revised or update? If so, when?___________________________________________________
- Is the information current or out-of-date, considering your topic?_______________________________
- Are all the links functional?_______________________________________________________________

Why is the site on the web? Points ____

- What is the purpose of the information? Advocacy...Education/Informational ...Business… Entertainment
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?_________________________________
- Is the information fact? Opinion? Propaganda?_______________________________________________
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?_______________________________________
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?_________________

How accurate is the information? Points ____

- Is the information supported by evidence?____________________________________________________
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?________________________________________________
- Can you verify any of the information in another source?_______________________________________
- Does the language or tone seem unbiased and free of emotion?________________________________
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?___________________________________

Total Points______

54 - 60 Excellent | 48 – 53 Good
42 – 47 Average | 37 – 41 Borderline Acceptable
36 or below - Unacceptable