**Name of Evaluator** _____

**Evaluating a Web Site for Research Rubric**

Directions: Use this rubric to determine if an Internet site is suitable for research.

You do _not_ need to use this rubric for sources that are provided through our _subscription_ databases.

Created by Diane C. Beaman -- Library Media Specialist, Belmont High School

**Name of Site/Page** _____ **URL (address)** _____

|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Check the **author**'s credentials and affiliation. Is the author an expert in the field? | The author is named but is obviously a student. Spelling and other errors indicate that the author is not an expert. | The author is unnamed and/or no credentials are given. | The author is named but credentials and contact information is incomplete. | The author's credentials are given and indicate that he/she is an expert in the field. The author provides an email address and/or contact information. |
| Does the resource have a **reputable** organization behind it? (If you can't tell right away, strip the URL from the right side until you get to a home page.) | The page is hosted by an individual. (The home page is a personal page hosted by an Internet service provider such as AOL, Yahoo, or Juno.) | Any of these: <br>• The home page is a K-12 site <br>• The home page is a student's folder on a .edu site <br>• The home page is an unknown .com or .org | The home page is sponsored by a known business, professional association, organization, museum, or university. | A United States government department or agency is the home page. |
| Are the site's **sources of information** stated? Are photos clearly labeled and sources cited? | No list of sources or works cited is given. | There is a general statement about the source of the information, but no specific works cited list. | There is a works cited list and/or a bibliography for further information. | There is a works cited list and/or a bibliography for further information. Photos are labeled and cited. |
| How **current** is the site? | There is no indication of when the site was created or revised. | The date given for the site's creation is over 3 years old and there is no date of revision or update. | The site has been created or updated within the last 3 years. | The site has been created or updated within the last 6 months. If there is a bibliography, the sources that are referenced are current. |
| What is the **domain** in the URL? | The domain is **.com** or **.edu** but it is clearly the work of students or individuals without authority. | The domain is **.com** and there are a lot of pop up menus and items for sale or the domain is .org and the organization behind the site is unrecognized. | The domain is **.edu**, **.com**, or **.org** and has been reviewed by a reputable subject directory such as The Internet Public Library, Dewey Browse, Yahoo.com subject directory, etc. | Any of these: <br>• **.gov** <br>• The domain is **.org** or **.com** and is posted by a well-known, reputable organization or company. <br>• The domain is **.edu** and university faculty, not students, maintain the site. |
| What is the **purpose** of the site? Is the information mostly **fact or opinion**? | The purpose is personal. | The purpose is to sell something, persuade, offer assistance, or give a point of view. There may be some factual information or useful pictures but the focus of the site is to promote something. | The purpose is to offer factual information. Some opinion may be included. | The purpose is to support scholarly research with factual information. |
| **Score Totals** | Highly questionable source.<br><br>**0 to 6 pts.** | Site is useful for ideas or casual projects. Do not cite as a reference for a research paper or academic project.<br>**7 to 10 pts.** | Good source for a research paper or academic project. Confirm with other sources.<br><br>**11 to 14 pts.** | Excellent source for research.<br><br><br>**15 to 18 pts.** |