

# Identifying High-Quality Sites

Name of Site

URL

## Website Test

Purpose of the Site	Circle one	Add details to explain
1. Can you tell if the site is fact or opinion? (If the information seems one-sided, or biased, you will have to go elsewhere to hear the other side of the issue.)	YES NO	
2. Is the site free of advertising?	YES NO	
3. If there are ads, is it easy to tell the difference between ads and content?	YES NO	
4. Is the site sponsored by any organizations?	YES NO	
5. Is it clear who the site is for? (for example, college students or young children)	YES NO	
6. Is the tone calm and fair? (Sites that are mean and angry may not be good sources of information.)	YES NO	
7. Is the site open to everyone? (no age requirements, fees, passwords, or registration)	YES NO	
8. Is the site's domain .edu, .net, .org, or .gov? (If you see a ~ in the URL, it may be a personal site, not an official site.)	YES NO	

<b>Trustworthiness of the Author</b>	<b>Circle one</b>	<b>Add details to explain</b>
9. Is the author identified by name?	<b>YES NO</b>	
10. Is the place the author works or the organization he/she belongs to given?	<b>YES NO</b>	
11. Is the author's biography provided, and does he/she have credentials related to the subject of the site?	<b>YES NO</b>	
12. Has the author or site received any respected awards?	<b>YES NO</b>	
13. Was this site recommended by a site you trust? (for example, by a homework help site)	<b>YES NO</b>	
14. Are sources given for statistics?	<b>YES NO</b>	
15. Can the author be contacted if you have questions? (by email, street address, or phone number)	<b>YES NO</b>	
16. Is the site free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors?	<b>YES NO</b>	
<b>Usefulness of Information</b>	<b>Circle one</b>	<b>Add details to explain</b>
17. Does the site have enough information for your research?	<b>YES NO</b>	
18. Is most of the information on the site useful for your research? (If not, it may be hard to find what you need.)	<b>YES NO</b>	
<b>Up-to-Date Information</b>	<b>Circle one</b>	<b>Add details to explain</b>
19. Can you find the date the article, page, or site was created?	<b>YES NO</b>	

20. Can you find the date it was last revised?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
21. Do all the links lead to active pages? (no dead links)	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
<b>Ease of Use</b>	<b>Circle one</b>	<b>Add details to explain</b>
22. Can you understand the text?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
23. Is the type easy to see?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
24. Do the titles and headings give a clear idea of the content?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
25. Are there photos, maps, charts, or other illustrations that help you understand the information?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
26. Is there a site map?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
27. Is there a tool for searching the site?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
28. Is there a “what’s new” feature?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
29. Are links labeled clearly?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	
30. Do pages load quickly?	<b>YES</b> <b>NO</b>	

How many times did you circle YES? \_\_\_\_\_ out of a total of 30

## Score your site!

**25 – 30: You’ve got a winner!** You can trust the information on your site, and it’s easy to use, too!

**15 – 25: Proceed with caution.** If you use any information from your site, be sure to fact check it on a site you can trust. You can also quote the author’s opinion, but make sure you say that’s what it is.

**0 – 15: Sorry, your site is a dud.** It isn’t safe to use this site as a source of information, so find a better one.