Web Evaluation Worksheet

Because **anyone** can publish on the Web, it is important to be able to distinguish between reliable and unreliable web sites. Consider **all** of the following criteria when evaluating a web site.

Directions: Write the URL for the site you are using and answer each of the questions below. See the Tips at the end for help.

URL of site: _____

Authority:

❖Who wrote the site? What are their qualifications? Are they experts?

❖Who published/hosted the site? Is the publisher/host reputable?

Objectivity:

❖Is this fact or opinion? Can you identify a bias? Does this bias affect the credibility of the site?

Accuracy:

❖Is this true? Can you tell where they got their information? Is this information from peer-reviewed sources? If so, is it cited? Can you find this information elsewhere?

Currency:

❖When was this information published or last updated? Is it current enough for your research?

TIPS:

- The **author and publisher/host** may be the **same**. For example, if you don't see an author's name on a museum page, then the museum is both the author and the publisher.
- You may not find all of your answers on the web page provided. You may have to **look at other pages** on the web site (look for an "about" link, for example) or search the web for more information about the person or organization that created the web site.
- **Weigh all four criteria** when making your decision. For example, the information may appear accurate, but if the authority is suspect you may want to find a more authoritative site for your information.