Article Source Evaluation Sheet

Author:

1. Give the name of the author(s) or producer of the information such as an organization.

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2. Select the one best description of the author’s(s’) or producer’s qualifications:

[    ] The author has specific credentials or degrees in the subject area.
[    ] The author is employed in a related occupation or is a journalist.
[    ] The author has personal life experiences related to the topic.
[    ] The topic is a personal hobby or interest of the author.
[    ] The author is an organization affiliated with a particular profession.
[    ] The author is an organization affiliated with a particular research institution.
[    ] The author is a nationally recognized organization (e.g. American Cancer Society).
[    ] None of the above describe the author’s(s’) qualifications.

3. Does the source contain a bibliography, footnotes, or citations?  [    ] yes  [    ] no

Content:

4. Is the information presented with sufficient detail and facts?  [    ] yes  [    ] no

5. Can the information provided in the source be verified or checked with other information resources? Is it reliable and accurate?  [    ] yes  [    ] no

6. Does the source agree with or complement information found in other sources such as encyclopedias, other reference works, books, and other journal articles?  [    ] yes  [    ] no

7. Is the source well-written (without spelling and grammatical errors)?  [    ] yes  [    ] no

8. Select the one best description of the intended audience:

[    ] Professionals or Academia
[    ] General Audience

9. Select the one best description of the intended purpose:

[    ] The source solely exists to provide information.
[    ] The source is attempting to persuade readers to a particular viewpoint.
[    ] The source is selling a product (books, videos, etc.).
[    ] The source is attempting to entertain readers.
10. Select the one best description of the slant or bias of the source:

[  ] The source primarily presents documented facts with little personal opinion.
[  ] The source presents an equal mix of documented facts and personal opinion.
[  ] The source primarily presents opinion with a few facts.

11. Describe the author's opinion or worldview.

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12. Give the title of the article and the name of the periodical (i.e. magazine, journal, newspaper).

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13. Select the one best description of the source:

[  ] Scholarly Journal (original research by professors, peer-reviewed)
[  ] Trade Journal (journal for a particular profession, i.e. education, nursing, etc.)
[  ] News Magazine (e.g. Time, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, etc.)
[  ] National Newspaper (e.g. Boston Globe, New York Times, etc.)
[  ] Popular or General Interest Magazine (e.g. Fitness, People, Sports Illustrated, etc.)
[  ] Local Newspaper (The Daily Item (Lynn, Ma.), Salem News, etc.)

Currency:

14. How current is the source? (NOTE: Currency is relative to your topic and may not be an important indicator.)

[  ] 2000-Present
[  ] 1990-1999
[  ] Before 1990

15. Draw your own conclusions. Is this a good source for your research? Using the information you have gained answering the questions above reflect on why or why not you believe this is a good source for your research.

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