# Identifying High-Quality Sites

**Name of Site**  

**URL**  

## Website Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of the Site</th>
<th>Circle one</th>
<th>Add details to explain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is the site free of advertising?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. If there are ads, is it easy to tell the difference between ads and content?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Is the site sponsored by any organizations?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Is it clear who the site is for? (for example, college students or young children)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Is the tone calm and fair? (Sites that are mean and angry may not be good sources of information.)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Is the site open to everyone? (no age requirements, fees, passwords, or registration)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustworthiness of the Author</td>
<td>Circle one</td>
<td>Add details to explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Is the author identified by name?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Is the place the author works or the organization he/she belongs to given?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Is the author's biography provided, and does he/she have credentials related to the subject of the site?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Has the author or site received any respected awards?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Was this site recommended by a site you trust? (for example, by a homework help site)</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Can the author be contacted if you have questions? (by email, street address, or phone number)</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Is the site free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usefulness of Information</td>
<td>Circle one</td>
<td>Add details to explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Does the site have enough information for your research?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Is most of the information on the site useful for your research? (If not, it may be hard to find what you need.)</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up-to-Date Information</td>
<td>Circle one</td>
<td>Add details to explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Can you find the date the article, page, or site was created?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Can you find the date it was last revised?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Do all the links lead to active pages? (no dead links)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of Use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Can you understand the text?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Is the type easy to see?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Do the titles and headings give a clear idea of the content?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Are there photos, maps, charts, or other illustrations that help you understand the information?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Is there a site map?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Is there a tool for searching the site?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Is there a “what’s new” feature?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Are links labeled clearly?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Do pages load quickly?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.