

Evaluating Web Sites

Use the following outline to evaluate Web sites. You can use the same or adapted questions with your children, depending on the children's ages and level of computer sophistication.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the evaluation below as completely as you can. If a question cannot be answered, write "no information" or "not applicable" on the line.

I. General Information

Name of Web site

Web site address

Subject of Web site

II. Design and Navigation

Does the home page include a table of contents or menu?

Does the text relate to any pictures, sounds, or videos that are included at this site? If so, give examples.

If there are links, do they take you where you are supposed to go? If not, what is the problem linking to other sites?

Can you navigate around the Web site without getting lost or confused?

III. Authority

Is there a statement explaining the purpose of this site? If so, what is it?

Who is responsible for this Web site (person or group)?

Can someone be contacted offline about this Web site? _____ If so, who?

Have the authors of this site described where they got their information?

IV. Content

Does this Web page include the date that it was written? _____ When it was last updated? _____

Does the site cover what it says it's supposed to cover?

Does the information seem reliable? How could or did you verify the information?

Give an example of something at this site that you might want to verify using another source.

Do you think this site would help you learn about a topic you were interested in? In what ways?

V. Opinion Rating

Does the Web site interest you? Why or why not?

Would you recommend this site to someone else? Why or why not?

Use the rubric below to rate the Web site you investigated. Read all of the ratings before beginning to put check marks on the lines. Put a check mark next to each item that applies to the Web site. If the majority of check marks (five or six) fall into one rating level, the site should receive that rating; however, if the check marks fall into two categories, the site could be rated in between two scores.

Rating 4

- ___ Site clearly and attractively designed
- ___ Site very easy to navigate
- ___ Sources clearly identified
- ___ Offline and online contact given
- ___ Information appears reliable and on topic
- ___ Additional links are useful and easy to get to

Rating 3

- ___ Site clearly designed but not very attractive

- Site mostly easy to navigate
- Sources mostly clearly identified
- Online but no offline contact given
- Information appears mostly reliable and on topic
- Little trouble linking to other sites, but not all were relevant or useful

Rating 2

- Site design somewhat confusing
- Site fairly easy to navigate
- Sources difficult to find on web page
- Online, but no offline, contact given
- Information appears reliable but limited
- Few useful links, and those identified sometimes difficult to get to

Rating 1

- Site poorly designed
- Site difficult to navigate
- Sources not identified
- No online or offline contact given
- Information is limited
- No links identified

Additional observations or comments about this Web site: