## TEST BEFORE YOU TRUST

**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** |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Trustworthiness of the Author** | | **Circle one** | | **Add details to explain** | |
| 9. Is the author identified by name? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 10. Is the place the author works or the organization he/she belongs to given? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 11. Is the author’s biography provided, and does he/she have credentials related to the subject of the site? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 12. Has the author or site received any respected awards? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 13. Was this site recommended by a site you trust? (for example, by a homework help site) | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 14. Are sources given for statistics? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 15. Can the author be contacted if you have questions? (by email, street address, or phone number) | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 16. Is the site free of spelling, typographical, and grammatical errors? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| **Usefulness of Information** | | **Circle one** | | **Add details to explain** | |
| 17. Does the site have enough information for your research? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 18. Is most of the information on the site useful for your research? (If not, it may be hard to find what you need.) | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| **Up-to-Date Information** | | **Circle one** | | **Add details to explain** | |
| 19. Can you find the date the article, page, or site was created? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 20. Can you find the date it was last revised? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 21. Do all the links lead to active pages?  (no dead links) | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| **Ease of Use** | | **Circle one** | | **Add details to explain** | |
| 22. Can you understand the text? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 23. Is the type easy to see? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 24. Do the titles and headings give a clear idea of the content? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 25. Are there photos, maps, charts, or other illustrations that help you understand the information? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 26. Is there a site map? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 27. Is there a tool for searching the site? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 28. Is there a “what’s new” feature? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 29. Are links labeled clearly? | | **YES NO** | |  | |
| 30. Do pages load quickly? | | **YES NO** | |  | |

## 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.