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## Website Evaluation Exercise

When conducting academic research, you will sometimes be in need of websites as sources of information, in combination with books and periodical articles. With all of the information available on the Internet these day, it's important to be able to distinguish which sites are considered acceptable for using in a research paper, and which ones are not.

In this assignment, you will be evaluating three web pages to determine if they are acceptable for using as sources in an academic research paper. Before looking at each site, read the handout given to you in your Freshman Seminar library session entitled "Evaluating Web Resources". This handout will provide you a set of criteria that you can use to determine the academic value of an Internet website. Be sure to read both sides of the handout carefully. After you have read it, proceed with this worksheet by visiting each website mentioned, and answering the questions that follow. **You will be assuming that you are writing a research paper on climate change.** Answer each set of questions with the idea that you are examining each site for reliability. After completing this exercise, you should have some sense as to how to evaluate websites for use in future research papers.

Visit the site: <http://www.climatechange fraud.com/>

1. Accuracy – Explore the website listed above. There is lots of information presented. Does the information seem accurate? Is it verifiable? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Author – What can we tell about the author of the information? Is there one? Is there an About Us page, and what can we tell from it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Bias/Point of View – Does there seem to be a bias in the presentation of the website? If so, discuss in what way there seems to be bias \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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4. Publisher – What is the reputation of the organization publishing the information? Are they well known? Are they qualified to publish information on climate change? Why?

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5. Currency – How timely is the information presented? Does it seem up to date? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Given the criteria you have used to evaluate this website, would you consider it acceptable to use as a source in a paper on climate change? \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the site: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/>

1. Accuracy – Explore the EPA website on climate change. Does the information seem accurate? Is it verifiable? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Author – What can we tell about the author of the information? Is there one? Is there an About Us page, and what can we tell from it? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Bias/Point of View – Does there seem to be a bias in the presentation of the website? If so, discuss in what way there seems to be bias \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Publisher – What is the reputation of the organization publishing the information? Are they well known? Are they qualified to publish information on climate change? Why?

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5. Currency – How timely is the information presented? Does it seem up to date? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Given the criteria you have used to evaluate this website, would you consider it acceptable to use as a source in a paper on climate change? \_\_\_\_\_

Visit the site: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change)

1. Accuracy – Explore this Wikipedia website on climate change. Does the information seem accurate? Is it verifiable? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Author – What can we tell about the author of the information? Is there one? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Bias/Point of View – Does there seem to be a bias in the presentation of the website? If so, discuss in what way there seems to be bias \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Publisher – What is the reputation of the organization publishing the information? Are they well known? Are they qualified to publish information on climate change? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Currency – How timely is the information presented? Does it seem up to date? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Given the criteria you have used to evaluate this website, would you consider it acceptable to use as a source in a paper on climate change? \_\_\_\_\_

**Finally, perform an Internet search on the topic of climate change or global warming. Write down the name of one website you found that you would consider to be acceptable in using as a source for a paper you are writing. List three reasons why you think the source is legitimate.**

Name of website and URL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Three Reasons**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_