Worksheet to Evaluate Research (Sources)

Directions:
Use the following list to help you evaluate sources. Answer the questions as appropriate, and then rank each of the 5 parts from 1 to 10 (1 = unreliable, 10 = excellent). Add up the scores to give you an idea of whether you should use the resource (and whether your professor would want you to!).

**Currency:** the timeliness of the information

- When was the information published or posted? __________________________
- Has the information been revised or updated? __________________________
- Is the information current or out-of-date for your topic? __________________
- Are the links functional? __________________________

**Relevance:** the importance of the information for your needs

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question? __________
- Who is the intended audience? __________________________
- Is the information at an appropriate level? __________________________
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one? __________
- Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper? __________

**Authority:** the source of the information

- Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor? __________________________
- Are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given? __________
- What are the author’s credentials or organizational affiliations given? __________
- What are the author’s qualifications to write on the topic? __________
- Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address? __________
- Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source? __________

**Accuracy:** the reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content

- Where does the information come from? __________________________
- Is the information supported by evidence? __________________________
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed? __________________________
- Can you verify any of the information in another source? __________
- Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion? __________
- Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors? __________

**Purpose:** the reason the information exists

- What is the purpose of the information? __________________________
- Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear? __________
- Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda? __________
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial? __________
- Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases? __________

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45 - 50 Excellent | 40 - 44 Good
35 - 39 Average | 30 - 34 Borderline Acceptable
Below 30 - Unacceptable

Total: __________________________