WEB SITE EVALUATION (CRAAP) WORKSHEET

PURPOSE:
Purposes of Web Resources
- Advocacy/Soap box (organization)
  - Example: American Red Cross
- Commercial/Marketing
  - Example: Amazon
- Informational
- News
- Personal (~)
- Entertainment

What the URL Can Tell You
- .com = commercial
- .org = organization
- .gov = government
- .edu = education
- .mil = military
- .net = network
- ~ = personal page

1. Indicate which of the following websites are examples of:
- Advocacy or soap box site
- Personal page
- Commercial site
- Reference site

   a) http://www.amazon.com

   b) http://www.usgs.gov/


   d) http://www.americanrivers.org

NOTE: Some sites may fit more than one category.

2. What suffix/symbol indicates a site is a:
   a) personal page? ____________________________
   b) commercial site? ____________________________
   c) reference site? ____________________________
   d) site sponsored by a non-profit organization? ____________________________

3. Visit the Princeton Review web site: http://www.review.com/. What is the purpose of the site?
   a) To inform
   b) To sell products and services
   c) Both of these answers

4. Advocacy pages can be useful for:
   a) Finding reliable data
   b) Understanding a point of view
   c) Both of these answers

To access the worksheet online:
- Departments
- Library
- Other LMC Links
- Teacher Resources
- Web Site Evaluation Worksheet
5. Visit the following web site: http://zapatopi.net/afdb/
   a) What do you think the motive of this site is?
      ________________________________________________________________
   b) Do you think this is a legitimate or hoax site?
      Why?________________________________________________________________

Authority (Author/Publisher)/Currency
Authority
   ▪ Who is the author or publisher?
   ▪ What are the author’s qualifications for writing on the subject?
   ▪ How reputable is the publisher or company?
   ▪ Is an address or e-mail given?
   ▪ If included, a date may have various meanings:
     - Date first created
     - Date placed on Web
     - Date last revised

   Currency of Web Resources
   ▪ Is the content of the site up-to-date?
   ▪ Is the publication date clearly indicated?
   ▪ Dates not always included on Web pages

   a) Who has copyrighted this site? _____________________________________________
   b) What is the copyright date of this site?_____________________________________

7. For the most authoritative information on federal income tax, go to:
   a) Jim’s Tax Page
   b) Internal Revenue Service Website

8. Explain your choice for # 7.
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

   a) From your evaluation of authority, do you think the site is reliable? Why?
      __________________________________________________________________________
   b) From your evaluation of currency, do you think the site is reliable? Why?
      __________________________________________________________________________
c) What credentials does the editor of the site have?
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

d) Do the links on this site lead to other reputable sites?
________________________________________________________

e) Does the author cite his or her sources?
________________________________________________________

f) Are there spelling errors or incorrect use of grammar?
________________________________________________________

Accuracy/Objectivity
- Is there a strong bias?
- To what extent is the information trying to persuade the audience?
- Some people and groups use the Web to express their opinions and persuade other people (vested interest)
- The purpose of the site is often not clearly stated

10. Indicate which of the following websites are examples of information with:
- Vested interest
- Supported arguments (sources of information are documented)
- Unsubstantiated (no documentation is provided)
- Balanced presentation (if the topic is controversial)
  (Hint: each one is used once)
a) http://galen.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco/cigpapers/demo/chapter1/1.html
b) http://www.lungusa.org/
c) http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shakespeare/
d) http://city-mankato.us/

11. Compare these Web sites. Which offers more balanced coverage of this topic? Circle the correct answer.
a) Angel on Death Row: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/angel/procon/
b) Death Penalty News & Updates: http://people.smu.edu/rhalperi/

12. Compare these Web sites. Circle the site which provides more credible coverage of the topic.
a) FinAid: http://www.finaid.org/
13. Which site is most likely to provide balanced information on eating a balanced diet? (This is a question to think about and not actually visit these web sites.)

a) Pork Producers Nutrition Page
b) Tufts University Nutrition Web Page
c) The Eat What You Want Page

Explain your choice
#13. ______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________

14. Visit the following web page to answer the last questions.
http://www.nineplanets.org

a) Do most of the links on the page work? _______________________________________________

b) Is the page completed or under construction? __________________

c) Is it an appropriate level for high school students? ______________

d) Is the site well organized or is it confusing when you first see it? __________________

e) Can you read the text against the background? _________

15. Use your knowledge of evaluating web sites to determine whether the following are legitimate or hoax web sites.

a) http://www.stephenswork.com/funkyshoes/index.html     Legitimate     Hoax
b) http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/                        Legitimate     Hoax
c) http://www.eurekascience.com/ICanDoThat/cloning.htm    Legitimate     Hoax
d) http://www.malepregnancy.com/                          Legitimate     Hoax
e) http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/elsi/cloning.shtml  Legitimate     Hoax
f) http://www.thedogisland.com/index.html                 Legitimate     Hoax