  

Evaluating WebSites WebQuest

**Introduction**

Welcome to Camp Reliable! All campers are going to go on a fishing quest while at camp. Where will you fish and for what are you fishing? I thought you would never ask! All campers will be fishing the lake of the Internet. Students think that all information on the Internet is reliable. I hate to burst your bubble, but all information on the world-wide-web does not contain reliable information. The type of fish for which you are fishing will be the biggest fish you have ever caught. Really! You are fishing for reliable websites. What criteria will you use to determine if a website is reliable? Don’t worry you do not have to fish in the BassMasters to find your big fish. Use the information below to begin your great fishing quest. The information will help you determine what bait or criteria you will use to catch the reliable websites. Once, you have caught the big fish you will put the fish you catch in a basket or checklist of criteria that you will use to evaluate other websites to see if they are reliable websites. Good Luck and Don’t Forget Your Life Vest!

 

Task

**On this fishing expedition, you will develop criteria that you will use to evaluate websites to make sure the information is reliable. Then, you will use the criteria to evaluate various websites to ensure that they are reliable.**

**Process**

1. **Study the following websites to determine 10 areas (criteria) you should consider when you evaluate websites. Note to Student: You will be given many areas to consider when evaluating websites. Please choose the 10 you think are most important.**
* [**Kathy Schrock's Website Evaluation**](http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/5ws.pdf)
* [**Kathy Schrock's Website Survey**](http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/evalhigh.pdf)
* [**Cornell Library Evaluating Websites**](http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/webeval.html)
* [**Ithaca College Evaluating Websites**](http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/?action=medialit_websites)
1. **Design/Create a checklist that contains your 10 criteria for evaluating websites. Note To Student: You may use pen and paper, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or other creative ideas you wish to use to create your checklist.**
* **Use your checklist to determine if the following websites are reliable. Make a copy of your checklist for each website and write the URL (Website address) that you are evaluating at the top of the checklist. Place a checkmark by the criteria the website has and an “X” by the criteria the website does not have.**
* [**Spaghetti**](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/archive/permalink/the_swiss_spaghetti_harvest)
* [**Tree Octopus**](http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/)
* [**Google Lunar Job Advertisement**](http://web.archive.org/web/20111030010946/http%3A/www.google.com/jobs/lunar_job.html)
* [**Advertisement**](http://www.iwr.com/becalmd/)
* [**World Trade Organization II**](http://www.wto.org)
* [**Wikipedia**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
* [**Medical Center**](http://rythospital.com/)
1. **Now that you know what to look for to make sure you are getting information from a reliable website, use your checklist to find 3 reliable websites on a topic that you are studying in one of your classes. Note to Student: Make a copy of your checklist for each of the 3 websites that you have chosen. Write the URL (Website Address) at the top of the checklist for the website you are evaluating. Place a checkmark by the criteria the website has and an “X” by the criteria the website does not have. Hint: If you have chosen a website that has an “X” anywhere on the checklist, it should not be considered a reliable website and you should choose another website. Use one of these reliable Search Engines to choose your websites:**
* [**Google**](http://www.google.com)
* **[Google Scholar](http://www.scholar.google.com)**
* [**Yahoo**](http://www.yahoo.com)
* [**Bing**](http://www.bing.com)

**Teacher Notes**

**Teachers may choose to complete these tasks in groups.**

**Teachers may choose to project these websites on a screen and as a whole group or individual groups discuss whether each website is reliable.**

**Teachers may want to point students to topics you are planning to have them research.**

**Extension**

**Teachers may wish to have students setup their website evaluation findings in a PowerPoint presentation to present to the class.**

**Teachers may wish to have students complete journal entries explaining the importance of choosing reliable electronic resources and explain what one should consider when deciding if a webpage/web- site is reliable.**

**Modifications**

**Teachers may wish to set aside a computer with enlarged print for visually impaired students.**

**Teachers may wish to allow learning- disabled students to work in pairs or groups and give them fewer examples to analyze.**

**Teachers of students needing a more concise resource for students who are easily frustrated with multitudes of information may choose the PowerPoint presentation at** [**Ringgold High School Media Center Web Page**](http://www.rhs.catoosa.k12.ga.us/?PageName='Library')**. Once you have accessed the Ringgold High School website, go to the “Media Center” link and then choose “Web Site Evaluation Presentation.” This presentation can help students create their checklist of criteria.**

**Teachers may wish to evaluate a few of the websites as a group to ensure understanding and then allow students to analyze the other websites individually to evaluate understanding.**

**Teachers may wish to allow more advanced students to help technologically challenged students as needed.**

[**http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/5ws.pdf**](http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/5ws.pdf)

[**http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/evalhigh.pdf**](http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/evalhigh.pdf)

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/webeval.html>

<http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/?action=medialit_websites>

[http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/archive/permalink/the\_swiss\_spaghetti\_harvest](http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/archive/permalink/the_swiss_spaghetti_harvest/)

<http://www.iwr.com/becalmd/>

<http://www.wto.org>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page>

<https://www.bing.com/>

**Evaluation**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Task | Exemplary4 | Accomplished3 | Developing2 | Beginning1 | Score |
| 10 Criteria | Student has knowledgeof 10 reliable criteria | Student has knowledgeof 8 reliable criteria | Student has knowledge of 6 reliable criteria | Student has knowledgeof 5 or less reliable criteria |  |
| Checklist | Format is easy to read, spelling is accurate and design uses PowerPoint, Excel or other computer software | Format is less easy to read, has a misspelled word anddesign uses PowerPoint, Excel or other computer software | Format is hard to read, has several misspelledwords, anddesign uses PowerPoint, Excel or other computer software | Format is hard toread, has several misspelled words, and designuses paper and pen |  |
| Website Evaluation | Student evaluates 9 example websites usingchecklist | Student evaluates 7 example websites using checklist | Student evaluates 5 or less example websitesusing checklist | Student evaluates less than 5 exampleWebsites using checklist |  |
| Research Topic Website Evaluation | Student evaluates websites (using checklist) on research topic and has 3 reliable sites | Student evaluates websites (using checklist) on research topic and has 2 reliable sites | Student evaluates websites (using checklist) on research topic and has 1 reliable site | Student shows no evidence of using checklist, but has 1 reliable site |  |
| Total Points |  |  |  |  |  |

**Conclusion**

Well, I hope you caught a basketful of reliable websites! Do you find it interesting to find some unreliable websites on the Internet? Now that you have some criteria to use to determine whether a website is reliable, will you use the information every time you are asked to research a topic? I hope that by completing this WebQuest you realize how important it is to analyze all information, but especially the information you find on the Internet. I hope all of your fishing expeditions are successful.