WEB PAGE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

your name:_____________________________________
website address:_________________________________
website name:___________________________________

QUESTIONS:

1. URL (Uniform Resource Locator/address): Every website has a unique address. The
   suffix of the address, or domain, can provide information about what kind of a site it is,
   whether sponsored by the government, an educational institution, a business, or a
   commercial enterprise.
   a. What is the domain or suffix of the site? __.edu __.gov __.org __.com
      __.net __.other
   b. Is it a personal site or one sponsored by an institution? ___yes ___no
   c. Does the site contain advertising for products? ____yes ___no

2. BIAS: It is very important to examine all sources of information with attention to any
   potential biases or perspectives of the author(s), whether those sources are print, visual,
   audio, or electronic. Bear in mind that it is much easier to publish a website than it is to
   publish a scholarly book or article.
   a. Does the publisher or author of the website have a clear position on the subject
      matter or a political bias? In other words, does the publisher or author support a
      particular agenda? ___yes ___no
   b. Is the site directed at a specific audience? If so, define that audience. ____yes
      ____no Define the audience: _____________________________________________
   c. What is the purpose of the site? Check all of the following that apply.
      __educational __commercial __informational __satire/humor __opinion
      __sharing __other (explain____________________)

3. AUTHOR: Since it is very easy to create and publish websites, it is important to look for
   signs of the author’s expertise or ability to provide good information on the subject you
   are researching.
   a. Does the website provide any information about the author’s experience,
      expertise, or credentials, such as degrees or connections to particular institutions?
      ___yes ___no
   b. Can the author’s credentials be verified easily? ___yes ___no

4. DOCUMENTATION AND ACCURACY: As a careful reader and researcher, you must
   pay attention to the sources a website author uses. If you are going to use information on
   website, you need to be sure that the information is credible and can be verified.
a. Are there footnotes or endnotes or a bibliography? ___yes ___no
b. If so, are the citations to credible sources, such as academic journals, scholarly books, or manuscript materials? ___yes ___no
c. Are the secondary sources, such as articles and books, up-to-date? ___yes ___no
d. If there are primary sources, that is, evidence such as documents and images, are their original locations and full citations provided? ___yes ___no
e. If there are links to other sites, are those sites reputable, such as those of museums and historical societies? ___yes ___no
f. Does the site appear to be carefully written and edited? ___yes ___no

5. OVERALL EVALUATION:

Offer a brief description of the site, including what you think is its purpose and audience.
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

How does it compare with a printed resource you might find at a library? ___________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

How useful and credible do you think the site is for doing research and why? _________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________