**Print Source Analysis Template**

Title/ Author/Source:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reputation  | * What is the reputation of the author, sources, and the publication?
* Do past actions or lies indicate the author, source, or publication may not be reliable?
* Is the author, source, or publication in a position of authority?
 |
| Ability to observe  | * Is the author in a position that allows access to reliable evidence?
* If the article is about an event, did the author actually observe the event?
 |
| Vested interest  | * Does the author have a personal stake in the topic or event?
* Would the author gain anything by lying?
* Would the author gain anything by telling the truth?
 |
| Expertise | * Does the author have specialized knowledge on the topic or event?
* Does the evidence come from a source that has expertise on the topic or event?
 |
| Neutrality | * Is the author neutral about the issue or is bias evident?
* Is the source of the evidence neutral or biased?
 |

**Online Source Analysis Template**

Website Title:

Website Address:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Purpose & content  | * Why was this page created?
* Is it meant to inform, explain, persuade, entertain, advertise, or advocate?
* Does the website have any means of contacting the author or webmaster?
 |
| Authority  | * Does this site have an author?
* What are the qualifications or expertise of the author or group?
* What else has the author written or produced?
* Does the author provide an email address?
* What authorship clues does the url provide?
 |
| Accuracy | * Is the information accurate?
* Has the information been edited?
* Is the information verifiable?
* Does the site document the sources used?
* How does the information compare to what you already know?
 |
| Currency  | * Is this site up-to-date?
* When was the information created or last edited?
* Are the links expired?
 |
| Ease of use (design, organization) | * Does the page look professionally designed?
* Is the page organized and focused?
* Is the text well-written?
* Is the page difficult to navigate?
* Is it easy to search the site?
 |

\*\*\*URL’s can provide clues to authorship:

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com—company

.edu—academic institution

.gov—government agency

.mil—US military site

.net—network of computers

.org—nonprofit organization

State supported sites (.IN.US)

Country-Specific Sites (.UK; .AU)

Personal Web pages