**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:

.

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