Library Learning Commons
LAKE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Practical. Purposeful. Promising.

Your name:				
Date:		Your class:		
Research Question:				
Source/Reference:	Author. (YYYY, Month Day). Title of Source. Date of access.			
Example:	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2010, October 1). Climate Change. October 11, 2010.			
Citation:				

	1	2	3	4	SCORE
ACCURACY *What is the purpose of the site and why was it produced?*	No apparent motivation as to why it was produced	Site is opinion based – no evidence to back it up	Site has some helpful information but not backed up, info matches other sources	Site offers valuable, unbiased information with sources cited	
AUTHORITY *Who published the site and are they the expert(s)?*	No information about author	Author is named but no credentials and no contact information	Author is named and contact info is available but no evidence of expert	Author is named, has contact info, and is expert or specialist in field	
OBJECTIVITY *What goal or objective does the page meet and how detailed is the info?*	Site does not match up with search criteria or answer research question	Site offers minimal connection between information and research question	Site answers some of research questions but with not enough detail	Site answers research questions and provides plenty of detail and additional sources to check	
CURRENCY *When was site produced or updated? Is information current?*	Date is unknown or older than 20 years – site has not been updated	Site updated in past 5 years but linked information or sources are older than 5 years	Site updated in past 2 years and links to current information but some dead links	Site updated in current year and links to up-to-date information and links all work	
COVERAGE *Is the information cited correctly and do links and pictures complement/balance with the text? Is the information free and easy to locate on the site?*	No citations to where info is coming from; pictures detract from purpose; info costs to use	Some citations for info; pictures serve slight purpose; info is free but incomplete	Accurate citations to where info is coming from; pictures kept to minimum; info is free but not in-depth enough	Citations to all sources of info; pictures serve to aid information; no costs or software downloads and entire articles or reports accessible	
				TOTAL	

Evaluation of Web Documents	How to interpret the basics
Accuracy of Web Documents	**Accuracy**
• Is the person qualified to write this document? • What is the purpose of the document or why was it produced? • Does the information compliment other forms of information that you have found?	• Is the person who wrote site an expert in this field? • Does the information on site parallel similar information from other sources (or does it say something completely random that you cannot verify elsewhere)?
Authority of Web Documents	**Authority**
• Who published the documents? • Check the domain of the document, what institution published it? • Does the publisher list his/her qualifications?	• What credentials are listed for the authors? • Make sure the author provides contact information • Know the difference between author and webmaster • Where is the document published (check the URL)?
Objectivity of Web Documents	**Objectivity**
• What goals/objectives does the page meet? • How detailed is the information? • What opinions (if any) are expressed?	• Determine if the page is a mask for advertising (might be biased) • Ask yourself "why was this written and for whom?"
Currency of Web Documents	**Currency**
• When was it produced? • When was it updated? • How up-to-date are the links?	• How many dead links are on the page • Are the links current and updated? • Is the information outdated and does current date matter for your topic?
Coverage of the Web Documents	**Coverage**
• Are the links evaluated and do they complement the theme of the site • Is there a good balance of text and images • Is the information presented correctly cited?	• If page requires special software to view, how much are you missing if you don't have the software? • Is the information free to obtain? • Is the information backed up with or by responsible sources?

Notes: