**Use this checklist as a guideline to help you decide whether an online source is reliable.**

7 or more points: This is probably a reliable source; consider using it.

4-6 points: This might be a good source; try to find out more about it before using it.

3 or less: This is probably not worth including in your sources.

**WEBSITE URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
  
Circle the number in the column that is the best answer Yes No/Not Sure

**No/  
POSITIVES YES Unsure**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I can identify a group or individual responsible for the content on this site. | 1 | 0 |
| This site is maintained by a person or organization that I know is credible outside of the Internet | 1 | 0 |
| The main purpose of this site is to provide facts (not opinions) | 1 | 0 |
| This site has been updated in the past 3 to 6 months | 1 | 0 |
| This site has external links to other credible websites | 1 | 0 |
| I know of other credible websites that link to this website | 1 | 0 |
| This site has a .gov or .edu suffix | 1 | 0 |
| This site provides a phone number or mailing address that I could use for contacting the person or organization for more information | 1 | 0 |
| I have verified the information on this site using reliable offline resources | 1 | 0 |
| I can verify the author is a credible, educated source. | 1 | 0 |

**NEGATIVES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| This site is clearly biased toward a specific opinion or point of view | -1 | 0 |
| This site contains many misspellings and/or broken links | -1 | 0 |
| The main purpose of this site is to sell a product or service | -1 | 0 |
| This site has no external links | -1 | 0 |

**FINAL TOTAL = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Would you use this as a credible source? Why or why not?