

Source Reliability Checklist

Directions: For each source, write the author, title, and website name (*not* the URL) in the space provided, and then put a check in the appropriate box for each question. If the article is not recent, do not use it. Also, if the source has a couple “No” boxes checked (unless you check the final box as “Yes”), consider it unreliable and find a different source. The final question is a sort of “bonus” reliable question. If you mark “No,” it doesn’t ruin the reliability, but a “Yes” does significantly increase the reliability.

Source 1:

Author:

Title of Article:

Name of the Website:

Yes No

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Does the source list a specific author? | | |
| Is the article recent (within the past 5 years or so)? | | |
| Does the article give sources for its facts? | | |
| Is the website generally well known? If so, is it known to be unbiased? | | |
| Does the website look professional? (Does it look clean and avoid things like misspelled words, etc.?) | | |
| Good but not necessary: | ----- | ----- |
| Does the website end in .gov or .edu? | | |

Source 2: Author:

Title of Article:

Name of the Website:

Yes No

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Does the source list a specific author? | | |
| Is the article recent (within the past 5 years or so)? | | |
| Does the article give sources for its facts? | | |
| Is the website generally well known? If so, is it known to be unbiased? | | |
| Does the website look professional? (Does it look clean and avoid things like misspelled words, etc.?) | | |
| Good but not necessary: | ----- | ----- |
| Does the website end in .gov or .edu? | | |

Source 3: Author:

Title of Article:

Name of the Website:

Yes No

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Does the source list a specific author? | | |
| Is the article recent (within the past 5 years or so)? | | |
| Does the article give sources for its facts? | | |
| Is the website generally well known? If so, is it known to be unbiased? | | |
| Does the website look professional? (Does it look clean and avoid things like misspelled words, etc.?) | | |
| Good but not necessary: | ----- | ----- |
| Does the website end in .gov or .edu? | | |

Source 4: Author:

Title of Article:

Name of the Website:

Yes No

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Does the source list a specific author? | | |
| Is the article recent (within the past 5 years or so)? | | |
| Does the article give sources for its facts? | | |
| Is the website generally well known? If so, is it known to be unbiased? | | |
| Does the website look professional? (Does it look clean and avoid things like misspelled words, etc.?) | | |
| Good but not necessary: | ----- | ----- |
| Does the website end in .gov or .edu? | | |