

Website Validity Checklist

Use the following checklist, outlined in the power point presentation, to know if the websites you are researching are valid or not.

0-1=invalid 1-4=okay, but marginal 5=great source in this area

Website URL: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128081896>

✓ The site is professional.

Where did you find this site? Who published it? (Check the copyright info)

I found this through a Google search in the form of a question with academic words: "Should videogames be used as curriculum in schools?" It is published by NPR, or National Public Radio, a reputable, conservative radio broadcasting network with published articles online. (<http://www.npr.org/about/aboutnpr/#pg-1>)

Pts=5

✓ Profession Check #2: Anyone can create a webpage. So check to see if the website is a professional site.

Professional sites include: .gov/.org/.mil/.museum/.aero/.edu

How does your cite end?

My site ends in .org, which is professional.

Pts=5

✓ Is it clear who has written the information? Check to see if the author of the website

is qualified. Credentials should prove the author's knowledge and experience on the subject of the website (Ph.D/ Dr., professor, professional, business owner, company owner, etc.).

Who created the site? AND who is author of the particular article you are reading?

NPR created the site, and the author of the particular article is Heather Chaplin. She is an assistant professor of journalism and design at "The New School" of Parsons, New York. The school focuses on art, technology, design and innovation, thus making the author qualified in this field.

Pts=5

✓ Information must be credible and error free.

Scan the website and check information on website with other scholarly sources. If the information cannot be produced elsewhere it is most likely non-credible. Write down two other website sources where you find the same information.

1) https://www.ted.com/talks/gabe_zichermann_how_games_make_kids_smarter. Gabe Zichermann, an expert in "gamification" explains how gaming can be beneficial to sharpen critical thinking skills (agrees with article).

2) <http://www.q2l.org>: Quest to Learn, a new innovative school mentioned in the article, is legitimate and real, described just as the article describes it.

Pts=5

✓ Site is published and copyrighted.

Look on the webpage to see if website has a sponsor. The sponsor of the webpage must be reputable or put out by a known scholarly company (Time Magazine and Mc-Graw Hill). Write down the sponsor. (Look for a large organization name or logo)

NPR/ National Public Radio—a reputable source for well-researched, informative news and current events.

Pts=5

✓ Links to other sites verify the same information.

Are there links to other sites? This establishes credibility. View these other sites. Information between main site and sites provided through links should be the same. *Do they? Describe what these links are and explain if they work or not.*

One link says "Quest to Learn" and takes me to the "Quest to Learn" school webpage. Another says "MacArthur Foundation" and takes me to information on the MacArthur Foundation. Both links are relevant to the topic of the article, and work.

Pts=5

✓ References

Search the website for references and links that reflect the quality and amount of research put into work. List two references that you have found.

Individuals from the school "Quest to Learn" have inputted information into the article. This is the only outside research conducted, in the form of interviews, and thus the article reads as an idea to consider without too much factual evidence to back it up.

Pts=2

✓ Relevant topics

Topics discussed on website should be relevant to what website is about. The aims of the website should be clear. Search the site to see if the site fulfills its aims about its topic. *Does the website stay on topic? Explain in 2 sentences below if it does or not.*

The article stays on topic throughout, discussing video gaming as an innovation in education. It shows examples of where such experiments in more implementation of such curriculum is already taking place.

Pts=5

✓ Information is unbiased.

Are there advertisements on the page? The website should show a minimum of bias. As you read the website ask yourself "Is the author trying to sway my opinion?" If so, the website may be a form of advertisement, not reliable information. *How does the website sway you to think one way? OR does your website offer both sides of an issue? In 2 sentences, describe.*

There is a Chevrolet ad, which indicates that the website may be financially sponsored. However, bias is left out. The article makes allowance for readers to determine their own opinions on the subject, explaining that this form of education is an option that might work. It does not read in a biased, persuasive manner.

Pts=4

✓ Website must be current.

When was the site produced? Check to see when the webpage was published or when it was last updated. The date or latest update should be current. *List the website date.*

There is no copyright date. The article itself was written June 28th, 2010, which is nearly six years outdated.

Pts=0

Total Points=41, valid source