Website Credibility Checklist

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

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

5 - 7 points: This might be a good source; try to find out more about it before using it

4 or less points: This is probably not a reliable source to use

URL: http://			
Circle the number in the column that is the best answer	Yes	No *or* Not Sure	Total Points
PURPOSE			
The main purpose of this site is to provide facts (not opinions) *Even non-profit.org sites may be biased*	1	0	
This site is clearly biased toward a specific opinion or point-of-view	**-1**	0	
The main purpose of this site is to sell a product or provide a service *a .com site may try to sell you something, whereas a .edu site most often exists for the sake of education*	**-1**	0	
ACCOUNTABLE			
I can identify a group or individual responsible for the content on this site *Look for their qualifications*	1	0	
This site provides contact information that can be used to contact the person or organization for more information *The author should be accountable*	1	0	
CURRENT			
This site is maintained by a person or organization that I know is credible outside of the internet	1	0	
This site has been updated in the past 3-6 months *A reliable site is frequently revised*	1	0	
This site was first created more than 2 years ago *A sites' longevity can be a clue to its reliability*	1	0	
This site has external links to other credible websites	1	0	
This site contains many misspellings and/or broken external links or has no external links	**-1**	0	
CONTENT			
This site has information that is relevant to my topic *It is important to maintain your focus*	1	0	
This site uses language and explanations I can easily understand *It is important that you can understand the information on the website,*	1	0	
There is not any, or hardly any, advertising on this website			
ACCURATE			
I have verified the information on this site on 2 other websites, or using reliable offline resources *Information found on the internet always needs to be verified with a reliable source, and all information used should be included in a bibliography*	1	0	
Would you use this as a credible source? *(circle one)* YES NO	**Total Points:**		

Why or why not? *(write 1 or 2 sentences of explanation)*