Name: _____ Date:_____

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A WEB SITE: *WEB SITES FOR USE BY EDUCATORS*
© 2002-12. Kathleen Schrock (kathy@kathyschrock.net)
Kathy Schrock's Home Page http://kathyschrock.net

What type of connection do you have to the Internet?
☐High-speed connection ☐DSL ☐T1 ☐T3 ☐Broadband/cable/satellite ☐Other/don't know
Y @æÁY ^àÁ¦[¸•^¦Áæ^Á[ˇ Á•ą*Ñ

Are you using a tablet to view the page ☐ Yes ☐ No
What is the URL of the Web page you are evaluating?   http://
What is the name of the site?

Place an "x" in the appropriate checkbox.

Part 1: Technical and visual aspects of the page As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.	YES	NO
1.1 Does the page take a long time to load?	☐	☐
1.2 Do any pictures or photographs on the page add to the information?	☐	☐
1.3 Is the spelling and grammar correct on the page?	☐	☐
1.4 Are there headings and subheadings on the page?	☐	☐
• If so, are they helpful?	☐	☐
1.5 Is the page signed by the author?	☐	☐
1.6 Is the author's e-mail address included?	☐	☐
1.7 Is there a date on the page that tells you when it was last updated?	☐	☐
• If so, is it current?	☐	☐
1.8 Is the format of the page standard and readable with your browser?	☐	☐
1.9 Is there an image map (large clickable graphic with hyperlinks) on the page?	☐	☐
1.10 Is there a table (columns of text) on the page? (Check the source code to be sure.)	☐	☐
• If so, is the table readable with your browser?	☐	☐
1.11 If you have graphics turned off, is there a text alternate to the images?	☐	☐
1.12 On supporting pages, is there a link back to the home page?	☐	☐
1.13 Are the links clearly visible and annotated or explanatory?	☐	☐
1.14 Do photographs or sound files appear on the page?	☐	☐
• If so, can you be sure that a picture or sound has not been edited?	☐	☐
• If you're not sure, should you accept the information as valid for your purpose?	☐	☐

Summary of Part One
Using the data you have collected above, write a short statement explaining why you would or wouldn't recommend this site to a fellow educator.

Part 2: Content As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.	YES	NO
2.1 Is the title of the page indicative of the content?	☐	☐
2.2 Is the purpose of the page indicated on the home page?	☐	☐
2.3 Does the page include the date it was created?	☐	☐
2.4 If there is no date, does the information appear to be current?	☐	☐
2.5 Does up-to-date information matter for your purpose?	☐	☐
2.6 Is the information found on the page useful for your purpose?	☐	☐
2.7 Would it have been easier to get the information somewhere else?	☐	☐
2.8 Would information somewhere else have been different? • Why or why not?	☐	☐
2.9 Did the information lead you to other sources, both print and Web, that were useful?	☐	☐
2.10 Is a bibliography of print sources included?	☐	☐
2.11 Does the information appear biased? (One-sided, critical of opposing views, etc.)	☐	☐
2.12 Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else?	☐	☐
2.13 Do most of the pictures supplement the content of the page?	☐	☐

Part 3: Authority As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.	YES	NO
3.1 Who created the page?		
3.2 What organization is the person affiliated with?		
3.3 Conduct a *link:* command in a search engine to see who links to this page. Can you tell if other experts in the field think this is a reputable page?	☐	☐
3.4 Does the domain of the page (k12, edu, com, org, gov) influence your evaluation?	☐	☐
3.5 Are you positive the information is valid and authoritative? • What can you do to validate the information?	☐	☐
3.6 Are you satisfied the information is useful for your purpose? • If not, what can you do next?	☐	☐
3.7 If you do a search in the newsgroups (i.e. Google Groups) for the creator of the page, do you find any information proving the Web page author is an expert in the field?	☐	☐

Part 4: Pedagogy As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.	Y	N	N/A
4.1 Does the information on this page adhere to research-based principles of teaching?	☐	☐	☐
4.2 Does the information on this page provide replicable best-practice information?	☐	☐	☐
4.3 Does the information on the page provide links to professional teaching standards?	☐	☐	☐
4.4 If the site is intended to provide professional development for educators, is the information presented using multiple modes of presentation, such as the use of text, illustrations, videos, audio, etc.?	☐	☐	☐

Part 5: Narrative Evaluation

5.1 Looking at all of the data you have collected above while evaluating the site, explain why this site is (or is not) valid for your purpose. Include the aspects of technical content, authenticity, authority, bias, pedagogy, and subject content.