Name: _____   Date: _____

I Found It on the Internet

Is everything that you read on the Internet true? The answer is no. The Internet does not always present accurate information. Find out how to assess the quality of information on the Internet.

1. Go to a web site about a scientific topic that you choose.

   a) My topic is _____ .

   b) The web page title is _____ .

2. Use the checklist to help you assess if the information is accurate.

☐ Is the site connected with a reputable scientist, school, research institute, or other organization? Use these questions to help you decide.
- Does the web site address (URL) include the name of a reputable source from a well-known organization? Check that the name is correct and that it is the official site of the organization. For example, the Nobel Foundation awards prizes every year for outstanding contributions in science, literature, and world peace. The official Nobel Foundation site is **http://www.nobel.se**. The site at **http://nobelprizes.com** is not maintained by the Nobel Foundation.
- Does the copyright notice tell you who the site belongs to? For example, if you check the copyright notice at the bottom of the Nobel web sites, you will find the official site of the Nobel Foundation.

☐ Is the author an authority on the topic? Use these questions to help you decide.
- What are the author's qualifications?
- What do other sources say about the author?
- Has the author published other articles on the subject?
- Does the author have the expertise he or she claims? Is there a way to find out? Look for a name and contact information.

☐ Does the site contain obvious errors? Use these questions to help you decide how carefully the site was prepared.
- Are there errors in facts that you already know?
- Are there spelling and grammar errors?

☐ Does the site contain links or references to other sources?
- Do the other sources confirm the facts presented?
- Does it seem that the other sources copied each other's content? If so, a mistake could be repeated.

3. How would you rate the web site you checked for accuracy? Explain your thinking.

_____

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