Name:

Date Due:

Parent signature:

Parent signature:

When you do research topics in science it is important to choose your sources wisely. You must be able to justify why you used a particular source. If a source is not suitable don’t use it.

1. Look up (at least the first 5) of the following websites, some contain real information and some are fake and/or silly. Tick the boxes that apply (more than one can be ticked).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Web address | Real?  Is the information on this website true? Accurate? | Fake?  Is the information on this website made up? | Silly?  Is this information all about conspiracy theories? | Don’t know  Sometimes its hard to tell |
| <http://www.idiotica.com/cranium/encyclopedia/> (click on the mars link) |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.ufos-aliens.co.uk/cosmicapollo.html> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.petroldirect.com/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.dhmo.org/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://courses.scholar.hw.ac.uk/vle/scholar/session.controller?action=viewContent&back=topic&contentGUID=f468ba24-2bec-6501-ba37-5c0dbaf8e0ed> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://zapatopi.net/afdb/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.buydehydratedwater.com/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.mjt.org/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.ovaprima.org/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://rythospital.com/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.deadlysins.com/guineaworm/index.htm> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/> |  |  |  |  |
| <http://www.sandman.com/telco.html> |  |  |  |  |

An electronic copy of this homework can be found on the Bannerman High School web page in the S1 homework section so you do not need to type in the web addresses.

1. What sort of information alerted you to the fact the websites were Real, fake or silly?

You need to learn to evaluate the quality of information you find on the web as well as other information resources such as books, magazines, CD-ROM, and television. You need to be sceptical of everything you find. You should compare and contrast different information resources.

You need to be able to say WHY you chose your sources. This can be as simple as saying you chose it because it was relevant to your research. You will need to understand the meaning of certain terms though.

1. Using the help sheet provided and a dictionary if needed complete the following table:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Definition in relation to research |
| Authority |  |
| Objectivity |  |
| Authenticity |  |
| Reliability |  |
| Timeliness |  |

1. Try to find two websites on the internet that would be suitable to use in the following research topic.

Many scientific technologies are NASA spin offs. A NASA spinoff is a technology, originally developed to meet NASA mission needs that has been transferred to the public and now provides benefits for the Nation and world as a commercial product or service.

Research a NASA spin off and describe its application on Earth and the positive contribution it has made to society.

1. Using some of the words and meanings in Q3 justify why you have chosen the two websites. (this Question should be completed in your homework jotter as it is the first part of the research project)

**Research Homework Help sheet**

**Authority. Who says? Know the author.**

■Who created this information and why?

■Do you recognize this author or their work? &What knowledge or skills do they have in the area?

■Is he or she stating fact or opinion?

**Objectivity. Is the information biased? Think about perspective.**

■Is the information objective or subjective?

■Is it full of fact or opinion?

■Does it reflect bias? How?

■Could the information be meant as humorous, a parody, or satire?

**Authenticity. Is the information authentic? Know the source.**

■Where does the information originate?

■Is the information from an established organization?

**Reliability. Is this information accurate? Consider the origin of the information.**

■Are the sources truth worthy? How do you know?

■Who is sponsoring this publication?

■Does the information come from a school, business, or company site?

■What's the purpose of the information resource: to inform, instruct, persuade, sell? Does this matter?

■What's their motive?

**Timeliness. Is the information current? Consider the currency and timeliness of the information.**

■Does the page provide information about timeliness such as specific dates of information?

■Does currency of information matter with your particular topic?

■How current are the sources or links?

**Relevance. Is the information helpful? Think about whether you need this information.**

■Does the information contain the breadth and depth needed?

■Is the information written in a form that is useable (i.e. reading level, technical level)?

■Is the information in a form that is useful such as words, pictures, charts, sounds, or video?

■Do the facts contribute something new or add to your knowledge of the subject?

■Will this information be useful to your project?