IPS 9- Assessing the Value of Online Information: Useful and Truthful
NAME: 　　　　　　**DATE:** 　　　　　**TEACHER:** 　　　　　**PERIOD:**
DIRECTIONS: *Answer all questions in complete sentences.*
SITUATION: *Imagine that you are doing a project on the Pacific Garbage Patch and the issue of plastics in the oceans. You must give a 4-6 minute PowerPoint presentation and use 5 books, websites, and articles to do your research.*
　　　　You will look at one website and determine whether it would be acceptable for your assignment.
GRADING = 16-13 Exceeds, 12-9 = Meets, 8-5 = Approaching, 4-0 =Below

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE
1) Give the **title** of the article:

2) Give the **URL** of the article:

3) State which kind of **domain** it is:

TRUTHFULNESS
4) What do you know about the **author's expertise** or **organization's reputation** that would lead you to believe this is a reliable or unreliable site?

5) Where/how did you find this information?

6) Name one way you may **contact the author** or **organization** with questions. Give a specific e-mail address, phone number, address, etc.

7) Does the author include a **bibliography**, **references,** or a **works cited** page?

8) Is the website **biased** (one point of view) or does it examine **both sides of the issue**? Explain.

9) If it is biased, **is it still acceptable** for research? Why or why not?

USEFULNESS
10) What is the **date of publication** or the **date of update**?

11) Is this date **recent enough** for a science project?

12) What is the **purpose** of this site?

13) Who is the **intended audience**? (Think of a specific group. Don't say "*Everybody.*")

14) Does the website have **enough information** to be one of your five sources or would you need to find a longer, more in-depth website?

15) If you had to choose five **excellent sources** for your PowerPoint, would this be considered an "excellent" source? Yes or no and why?

TRUTHFULNESS (Continued – Do this question last):
16) Using the library catalog Destiny, find **one other reliable web page, article, or book that supports the information from this website.**
   o   For a book, give the title and author.
   o   For an article, give the title and author.
   o   For a website, give the title and URL.

HINTS – HOW TO EVALUATE A WEBSITE
(To save paper, please delete this section before you hand in the assignment.)

Author = The author can be a person <u>or</u> an organization.

Author = When it is not obvious who the author is, try going to the homepage of a website. You will usually find an "About," "Contact Us," or "People" link that will tell you something about the author. You can also try Googling the author.

Date = For science courses, be sure that sites are current (less than 5 years old).

Date = Look for the © or update date at the bottom of the screen.

Date = If there is no visible © date, check the dates of the titles in the bibliography or works cited page.

Date = If links on the page are broken, that means that the website is not maintained or updated regularly, so the information may not be relevant.

Domain = The extension at the end of a URL (ex. .com).

Domain = Domains such as .org and .gov are usually, though not always, more reliable than other domains (ex. .com and .biz).

Purpose = Websites are created to educate, entertain, or sell.

Purpose = Quickly glance at the titles, pictures, captions, and links identify the author's message and point of view.

Title = You can usually find the website's title in the tab or the blue bar at the top of the screen.