

Content Validity Checklist© (Arnone & Small, 1999)

The Content Validity Checklist was designed as a web-aid for teachers screening Web sites for inclusion in lesson plans. This checklist focuses on content validity only. There are no questions about functionality, amount of information, appeal of visuals, or navigation issues since these are included in the WebMAC instruments. For content validity to be high, all boxes should be checked "Yes," unless an item is not applicable to your situation.

1. The source of information for this Web site is credible. YES NO

TIP

Check the home page to determine who or what entity is responsible for the content. Is there a link to background information on the author(s) or institution? Make sure you are convinced of the legitimacy and qualifications of the author.

2. There is a way to contact the author of the Web site, if necessary. YES NO

3. The factual information or content of the Web site seems accurate. YES NO

TIP

Look for the sources of information. They should be clearly identified and easily verifiable. Links to other Web sites with related information may also help with verification.

4. If the Web site presents concepts or principles in its domain (e.g. science, art), they are appropriately presented without confusing or missing information. YES NO

TIP

Think of your target audience. Is there enough baseline information presented to support the presentation of higher order concepts or principles?

5. There are no typographical or spelling errors that could potentially cause the information at this Web site to be misunderstood. YES NO

6. The content is appropriate for your students' developmental level? YES NO

7. The links from this site appear to be credible. YES NO

8. This Web site appears to be free of bias. YES NO

TIP

Is there a reason the author of this Web site might be biased in the presentation of content? (For example, does the author have a vested interest in how you react to the information provided?) Does the author identify when a statement is a personal point of view?

9. The information on this Web site is current enough for your needs. YES NO

TIP

Look for a "Last Update" usually located at the header or footer of a page. Often, some parts of the site will be updated regularly while others remain fairly constant. Determine how important currency is to the presentation of your specific topic.

10. The links from this Web site are also current and unbiased. YES NO