Evaluating the Quality of a Source Worksheet

Source Title: ____________________________________________________________

Source Author(s): _______________________________________________________

Source Organization(s): ________________________________________________

Currency:
1. When was the source published? ________________________________
2. Is it outdated? YES or NO (circle one)
3. If yes, is it still relevant to your topic? YES or NO (circle one)

Relevancy:
4. What type of source is it? (check all that apply)
   □ Book □ Magazine article □ Newspaper article □ Journal article □ Website □ Other: ____________
5. Who is the intended audience of the article? (Check all that apply)
   □ General Audience □ College Students □ Professionals □ Potential Customers □ Experts in the Field
6. How easy is the material to understand?
   □ Easy - Anyone could understand it □ Moderate - Intended for college students & higher
   □ Difficult - Very technical & intended for experts and scholars

Authority:
7. What is the author’s job title?
   _________________________________________________________________
8. What is the author’s education background?
   _________________________________________________________________
9. Is the author an expert in the topic? YES or NO (circle one)
    How do you know? ________________________________________________
10. If it is an organization, is the organization considered an expert in the topic? YES or NO (circle one)
     How do you know? ______________________________________________

Accuracy:
11. Can you find any of the following in the article? (check all that apply) □ citations/references □ typos/errors
12. Does the language seem unbiased? YES or NO (circle one)
Purpose:
13. Why did the author write this article?
____________________________________________________________________________________
14. Is the author biased? YES or NO (circle one)
15. If this is an organization, what is the purpose/mission of the organization?
____________________________________________________________________________________
16. Why do you think the organization published the article?
____________________________________________________________________________________

IS THIS SOURCE APPROPRIATE FOR MY ASSIGNMENT? WHY OR WHY NOT?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________