**Assess Sources** – It is critical, for any research project, that you are able to tell a reliable source from a ridiculous one. To show me that you know what you’re doing, click on the hyperlink provided (under Source URL), then skim the website and assess it using the criteria below. Rate each criteria from **0-3 (0 = has not met, 3 = meets very well)** Once you’ve assessed all 10 criteria add up the source’s total score, then find its reliability percentage.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Criteria** | **Source URL:**<http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/> |
| **Credibility** | * The author’s name and credentials are listed (first and last name, education, background)
 |  |
| * The author can be reached for questions/comments (phone #, email, mailing)
 |  |
| * There are few mechanical errors (grammar, spelling, capitalization)
 |  |
| **Reliability** | * The date of publication or update is current (the meaning of “current” will vary based on context)
 |  |
| * The author is fair and objective (unbiased)
 |  |
| * The information is logical and complete
 |  |
| * Other resources contain similar information
 |  |
| **Authenticity** | * The design and navigation is polished, professional, and functional
 |  |
| * URL contains a reputable suffix (.edu, .gov, or country code) rather than an open one (.com)
 |  |
| * The site’s name sounds legitimate, rather than silly or unprofessional
 |  |
| **Total # Check Marks for each source. Maximum: 30** |  |
| **Reliability Percentage (#of x/30)** |  |