Evaluating a Website

Curriculum Area(s): Reading	**Grade Level:** 7
Time Required: 2 – 50 minute sessions	**Instructional Groupings:** Pairs or small groups

Standards: RI.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. RI.7.6 Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
Materials: Internet, computer (at least one access point for each pair or group of students)
Overview: To guide students in evaluating websites for accuracy, reliability, and authorship.
What will I differentiate? The closure activity
How will I differentiate? By accommodating students unable to locate websites on their own
As a result of this lesson/unit, students will…
Understand: Can students explain why it is important to evaluate websites for accuracy and reliability?

Know: Basic computer skills Vocabulary: website, URL, accuracy, reliability, authorship	**Do (Skills):** Refer to specific examples from text as evidence. Infer meaning from website content. Determine the point of view of a website author or creator.

Pre-Assessment: Students will answer the following questions: 1. Name some reasons you use websites. What are some features of good websites? 2. Is it important to evaluate websites before you trust their content? Why or why not? 3. Name two ways you can evaluate websites.
Steps in the Lesson: 1. The teacher will give a short explanation of the importance of evaluating websites for accuracy, reliability, and authorship before trusting their content. The terms *accuracy, reliability,* and *authorship* will be defined. 2. Students will be evaluating three websites related to the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. (The URLs are provided on the attached worksheet.) Working in pairs or small

groups, they should complete the worksheet.
3. After returning to the large group, students should discuss their findings. The teacher should guide the discussion and list students' reasons on the board.
4. The teacher should summarize the discussion, making sure to emphasize that:
   Accuracy means that the information is correct and can be checked in another source (like an encyclopedia).
   Reliability means that we can trust the source.
   Authorship describes the person or organization responsible for creating and maintaining the website.

Differentiation: For the closure activity, teachers can provide example websites for those students unable to search and locate them on their own.

Closure Activity/Wrap-up: Students should search for other sites about the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., finding at least two different examples and describing them in terms of accuracy, reliability, and authorship.

Post-Assessment: Students should write a paragraph to answer each of the following questions:
1. Why is it important for a website to be *accurate*?
2. Why is it important for a website to be *reliable*?
3. Why is it important to know the *authorship* of a website?

Additional Resources: For a related activity, students can discuss the accuracy and reliability of commonly used websites, such as:
- Wikipedia (also included in the lesson above)
- WebMD
- YouTube (or other social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace)

Name: _____   Date: _____

Evaluating Websites: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Follow the instructions below to explore three websites about the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. Before you begin, give two facts you know about Martin Luther King, Jr.

_____

2. Go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr. Fill in the following information about this website.

Is this site *accurate*? Why or why not?	Is this site *reliable*? Why or why not?	Who is the *author* of the site?

3. Go to http://www.thekingcenter.org/. Fill in the following information about this website.

Is this site *accurate*? Why or why not?	Is this site *reliable*? Why or why not?	Who is the *author* of the site?

4. Go to http://www.martinlutherking.org/. Fill in the following information about this website.

Is this site *accurate*? Why or why not?	Is this site *reliable*? Why or why not?	Who is the *author* of the site?