



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

## Being a Critical Researcher

One of the primary skills you'll need to be a successful citizen is the ability to research and critically evaluate information. With the explosion of the internet there is A LOT of information out there, but not all of it is good.

### **TASK 1**

In March 2004, the town of Aliso Viejo considered imposing a ban on dihydrogen monoxide. Dihydrogen Monoxide (DHMO) is a colorless and odorless chemical compound, also known as hydrogen hydroxide. Dangers of dihydrogen monoxide include:

- Death due to accidental inhalation of DHMO, even in small quantities.
- Prolonged exposure to solid DHMO causes severe tissue damage.
- DHMO is a major component of acid rain.

Using the provided sources, research the pros and cons of dihydrogen monoxide and organize your information as if you were being asked to help the mayor of Aliso Viejo make a decision on whether or not to support the ban. Remember, you want to be able to sound authoritative and credible when we discuss this as a class. Working on your own visit each of the following websites for 3-5 minutes each, reading through and fill out the following:

Website 1: <http://mckinnonlabs.com/index.html>

Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary:

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Website 2: <http://bit.do/prodhmo>

Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary:

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Website 3: <http://dhmo.org>

Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary:

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Adapted from SOS Info Literacy Laramie/Lederle Collaboration Effort DHMO Lesson & John D. Brock Evaluation

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**TASK 2**

Let's take a closer look at the website for Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide

What is the URL for the site? \_\_\_\_\_

What date was the information last updated? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the site have a lot of ads or pop-ups? \_\_\_\_\_

At the bottom of the page, the site lists some sources used as evidence for its argument, use a search engine to see if you can locate those specific articles or books.

Did the evidence presented seem reliable? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the design of the site give you any clues as to its reliability? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't get DUPED**

It's important to be skeptical of information you find while researching on the internet. One way to consider the veracity of a source is to use the acronym DUPED

- **Date** - why would this be important? \_\_\_\_\_
- **URL** - why would this be important? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Pop-up Ads** - why would this matter? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Evidence** - What should you look for? \_\_\_\_\_
- **Design** - how could this be related? \_\_\_\_\_

**WIKIPEDIA**

Started in 2001, Wikipedia set out to become a free online encyclopedia for the world. One of the founding principles of Wikipedia was that no central organization should control editing, meaning that any user could create or edit articles.

Today the English edition Wikipedia has over 5.6 million articles and receives over 18 billion page views a month.

When doing research what are some best practices for using Wikipedia? \_\_\_\_\_

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