Name _____

Date_____ Hour_____

Things for you to think about…

A. **Everything you have been told about using the Internet for Research is Wrong**

1. Why do people like to use Google when searching for information?

2. What problems exist in using Google for searches?

3. Why do teachers often say that Wikipedia is a bad source?

4. What makes Wikipedia a good source?

5. What problems are still inherent* in the Wikipedia model?

6. Why are academic journals supposed to be excellent sources of information?

7. What problems may exist in using academic journals?

8. Why is it a bad idea to insist that sources must be "without bias" or "unbiased"?

9. Why are .org and .edu often viewed as better than .com domains for reliable information?

10. Why are .org and .edu not necessarily any more reliable than .coms?

inherent: to exist, to be a part of

Name _____
Date_____ Hour_____

B. Who created this message?
   1. Is this author an expert?

cdc	mercola	healthychildren

   2. Why does this organization exist?

cdc	mercola	healthychildren

   3. Do you believe this information could be reliable, based on the authorship? Why/why not?

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C. Who is the audience for this message?
   1. Who is the author speaking to? Describe the audience.

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   2. How can you tell that this is the audience?

cdc	mercola	healthychildren

   3. Is the author using any pronouns? If so, how is she using them? Why?

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D. What is the purpose of this message?

1. What is the author's purpose?

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2. What words does the author use that specifically clue you in to the purpose?

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3. How do these words help you determine the author's purpose?

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4. What does the author want you to ultimately do with this information?

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E. What is the message?

1. What is the author's message?

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2. What does the author want you to believe? How can you tell?

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3. What are the underlying beliefs that the author holds?

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4. How do these beliefs influence the message?

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F. What is not being said in this message?
1. What information is the author leaving out, and why?

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2. Are there groups who are not represented or who are underrepresented in this message? Explain.

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3. Why would the author leave certain groups out?

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G. How is the message visually presented?
1. What information does the author want you to notice first? How can you tell?

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2. How do the graphics and images support the message? Be specific.

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3. Are there groups who are underrepresented or overrepresented in the visuals? Why?

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4. How are colors and fonts used on the page? Do they support or detract from the message?

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5. How does the visual representation of the information and the layout of the page affect the message?

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H. How can I know that this message is factually accurate?
   1. Does this information support what you already know? Explain.

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2. Are you able to verify this information with other sources? Explain your answer.

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3. Is the information presented in a professional way, and is it error-free? Explain your answer.

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4. When was the information last updated? When was the page last updated?

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5. Has the information been peer-reviewed (reviewed and supported by other experts)? Explain.

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6. Does the author include links to supporting sites, and do these links work? Explain your findings.

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7. Does the author give evidence for all of the claims he makes? Explain your answer.

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8. Does the author include a works cited or links to her sources?

cdc	mercola	healthychildren

If you were researching vaccines for a research paper, which of these sources would you want to use? Why?

If you were a parent and researching vaccines for your child, which of these sources would you want to use? Why?