Website Evaluation Assignment

This assignment is the first step in your Culminating Project. (See each instructor's culminating assignment for a full description of the final project.) For the Website Evaluation Assignment, working as an individual, you will locate two websites that you think will provide helpful information on the women's issue with which you plan to work. Using the methods you will learn in the workshop with Carroll Wilkinson and the attached "Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test" sheet, you will write up a short evaluation of the websites, focusing on how you will determine whether or not the information they contain is reliable and pertinent to your topic and goals. Please note that the goals of these information literacy assignments are to help you develop new strategies for finding and evaluating information, so your work will be examined for how well you demonstrate your ability to apply the information from the workshop.

Instructions:

1) Using search strategies from the workshop, locate two websites related to your topic. Write a paragraph (approximately 5-10 sentences) that describes how you found the websites.

2) Provide a citation for each website, including the complete url, the date you accessed the site, the organization, the date the information was posted or last updated, and the title of the website.

3) For each website (under the citation), write a paragraph that addresses each of the categories on the "CRAAP Test" (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose). Employ the strategies that you learned in the workshop with Carroll Wilkinson in your evaluation.

4) At the bottom of the assignment, write a paragraph that compares the reliability and usefulness of the websites. Determine which of them is the most reliable and/or most appropriate to your project and justify your evaluation. If you think they are equally reliable/useful, describe what kinds of information you will use from each site. Will they provide different types of information for your Culminating Project?

Grading (50 pts. Total—10 points apiece):

1) Search strategy
8 – Good. Well-described search process, but relies on the ‘tried and true’ rather than trying new things (e.g. works with a different database, but successfully locates articles).
6 – Inadequate. Fails to describe the search process in complete terms.
4 – Fail. Attempts work, but inadequate effort (paragraph too short, only finds one website, etc.)
0 – Not attempted or plagiarized.

2) Citations
10 – Excellent. Complete and accurate citations for both websites.
8 – Good. Complete and accurate citation for one site, but the other has minor errors or omissions.
6 – Inadequate. Minor errors or omissions in both citations OR major errors or omissions in one citation.
4 – Fail. Major errors or omissions in both citations.
0 – Not attempted or plagiarized.

3) Paragraph on each website using the “CRAAP Test”
10 – Excellent. Complete paragraph for each site – successfully applies the five criteria from the “CRAAP Test” and employs tools from the workshop.
8 – Good. A thoughtful evaluation but misses one or two things (e.g. doesn’t demonstrate knowledge of tools from the workshop, or one of the paragraphs lacks some information).
6 – Inadequate. Does not fully address the five criteria from the "CRAAP Test"
4 – Fail. A weak attempt to apply the “CRAAP Test.” (e.g. only addresses three or fewer of the criteria from the "CRAAP Test").
0 – Not attempted or plagiarized.

4) Comparison of the 2 websites
10 – Excellent. Thoughtful, insightful comparison that uses the “CRAAP Test” evaluation to make a convincing case.
8 – Good. A strong case, but lacks reference to the results from the “CRAAP Test”.
6 – Inadequate. Makes an effort but fails to adequately support the choice of website.
4 – Fail. Does not make a coherent and/or well-developed case.
0 – Not attempted or plagiarized.

5) Writing, grammar, spelling and other mechanics
10 – Excellent. No typos.
8 – Good. Up to four typos.
6 – Inadequate. Five to ten typos or up to two types of grammatical/spelling errors.
4 – Fail. More than ten typos or more than three types of grammatical/spelling errors.
0 – Not attempted or plagiarized.