

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____



Evaluating and Citing books—

Using Athena, do a search on a topic of your choice. In your results list choose an entry that is a **non-fiction** book (ie. 629.5 etc.) and lists the book as “in” (on the shelf). Go to the shelf and find the book. We really do live in the “Information Age” (the amount of information produced is doubling roughly every 3 years!). That means that there is usually plenty of information to choose from on any given topic.

You should evaluate any source of information that you may use for its usefulness, even published books. Use the book that you found on the shelf to answer the following questions:

1. **Cover/Title**--We aren't supposed to “judge a book by its cover” but on the other hand, we can get a lot of clues and first impressions from the cover. Does the cover draw your attention? What does the title tell you about the book? Write your first impression below.

2. **Table of contents**—Look over the subjects that the book covers. Write down the title of one chapter that looks interesting.

3. **Special features**—Does the book have illustrations, an index appendix (both at the back of the book), any charts, or tables? List some of these important features that your book offers.

4. **Bibliography**—This is often missed because it is usually buried at the back of the book. The bibliography is a list of what the author of the book used to write the book you are evaluating. This list could be used to further your research if you needed or wanted more information on this same topic. If your book has a bibliography, list the title of one of the books listed in the bibliography.

5. Using the **Soquel High School Library Citation Guide** (if you don't know where we keep this, please ask) or <http://webapps.calvin.edu/knightcite/> write a bibliographic citation for the book you are using. The information you will need is: the author, the title, the place of publication, the publisher and the date of publication. Doing a MLA citation means putting all of this information into a certain form (punctuation is important!) If you were to actually use this book to do a research paper this is how you would cite this source.
