EPICS 151 ASSIGNMENT

Your group is assigned two sources: an article and a website. Examine these two sources and determine whether they offer reliable information for an academic or professional report. Using the criteria listed below (as well as others we may have discussed in class), rate each source on a scale from 1-5 for the following qualities:

1. Is it scholarly?
2. Is it authoritative?

Rating scale: 1 = least scholarly/authoritative ...to 5 = most scholarly/authoritative

You have ten minutes to complete this exercise. Be prepared to report on and explain your ratings.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING INFORMATION SOURCES

**Is it Scholarly?**

- Are authors listed, with credentials?
- Are references listed?
- Is the information reviewed by peers or experts in the subject (“peer-reviewed” or “refereed”)?
- Is its purpose to inform or impart knowledge (rather than to sell, persuade, or entertain)?
- Does it include data, observations, statistics, or graphics to support conclusions?
- Does it include specialized or technical language or concepts?

Score: (not very) 1 2 3 4 5 (very)

**Is it Authoritative?**—A source can have authority even if it isn't scholarly.

- Is the author an expert or well-qualified to write on the subject?
- Is the author’s affiliations or contact information listed?
- Is the publisher or sponsoring organization reputable? For websites, look for an “About” page, and look at the web address: .gov or .edu addresses usually indicate that the content is not profit-motivated.
- Are the sources cited in the publication themselves scholarly or authoritative?

Score: (not very) 1 2 3 4 5 (very)

GROUP NAME ____________  // we rated (circle one) a WEBSITE  or  an ARTICLE