Visual Assessment

(Grades 3-5)

School/site:_____

Investigator(s):_____

Date & Time:_____

Check off the most accurate description:

Current Weather Conditions

- ○ **Sunny**
- ○ **Partly Cloudy**
- ○ **Rain**
- ○ **Snow**

Time Since Last Rain or Snow

- ○ **Today**
- ○ **1-2 days ago**
- ○ **More than 2 days ago**
- ○ **Unknown**

Air Temperature _____°C

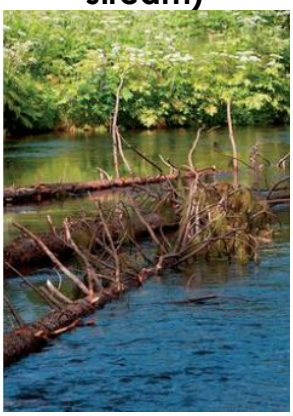
Water Conditions: (Circle the term that best describes what you see)

Smell	No Smell | Stinky | Rotten Eggs | Poop | Gasoline Other:_____
Color	Clear | Green | Blue-Green | Brown | Yellow | Gray Other:_____
Turbidity (Water Clarity)	Clear | Slightly Cloudy | Cloudy (Muddy) | Milky Other:_____
Water Movement	Streams Slow | Moderate | Swift | Rapids
	Lakes Still | Ripples | Waves | Choppy

Land Use Characteristics: (Circle term that best describes what you see)

Natural	**Houses, schools, lawns, roads**	**Hiking trails, parks, golfing**	**Farms**	**Factories, mines, power plants**

Stream Characteristics: (Circle term that best describes what you see)

Trees Canopy (Shading the water)	Woody Debris (Sticks, roots, fallen trees in the stream)	Plants in the water	Algae
			
Open	None	None	None
Mostly Open	Rare	Rare	Rare
Mostly Shaded	Some	Some	Some
Fully Shaded	Many	Many	Many

Additional Observations / Sketch:

Biological Assessment

(Grades 3-5)

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Identification and Scoring check off all that apply)

Pollution Intolerant	Pollution Sensitive	Pollution Tolerant
___ Stoneflies ___ Case-building caddisflies ___ Mayflies ___ Gilled snails (Right-handed snails) ___ Dobsonflies/Fishflies ___ Riffle beetles (larvae + adults) ___ Water pennies ___ Watersnipe flies	___ Net-spinning caddisflies ___ Alderflies ___ Crayfish ___ Scuds ___ Dragonflies ___ Damselflies ___ Clams/Mussels ___ Sowbugs	___ Midges ___ Black fly larvae ___ Planarians ___ Leeches ___ Lunged snails (Left-handed snails)
___# of checks x 3 =____	___# of checks x 2 =____	___# of checks x 1 =____

Add the total from each column for your water quality rating =_____

Water Quality Rating (check off the rating that matches your data)

___ Excellent (>22) ___ Good (17-22 ___ Fair (11-16) ___ Poor (<11)

Additional Observations:

Chemical Assessment

(Grades 3-5)

Chemical Assessment (circle or write the best answer)

Water temperature: _____°C

Nitrate (ppm):

0 ppm 5 ppm 10 ppm 20 ppm >20ppm (write the value here) _____ppm

Phosphate (ppm):

0 ppm 0.5 ppm 1 ppm 2 ppm >2 ppm (write the value here) _____ppm

pH:

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Turbidity (JTU):

0 JTU 10 JTU 20 JTU 30 JTU 40 JTU >40 JTU (write the value here) _____JTU

Dissolved Oxygen (ppm):

0 ppm 1 ppm 2 ppm 3 ppm 4 ppm 5 ppm 6 ppm 7 ppm 8 ppm

9 ppm 10 ppm 11 ppm 12 ppm

Salinity (ppt):

_____ppt