

Credible Sources

A Summary of Questions that Need Answers

- **Who is taking responsibility for the content?**
- **What are the author's credentials?**
- **What are 2-3 indicators from the site that it provides quality information?**
- **Does the information agree with other sources? What other source did you check?**
- **Is the information current?**

TIPS FOR YOUR MAKING YOUR WORKS CITED PAGE:

- 1) Each researcher should answer the credible source questions before conducting research.
- 2) Each researcher should keep an ongoing list of the sites that s/he researches.
- 3) Organize your list using the following model:

Lastname, Firstname. "Article Title." Site Name. Organization

Name. Article date. Web. Date of access.

Helpful tips to determine if a website is a reliable resource:

- **Who is taking responsibility for the content?**
 - Look for information about the site's author, be it an individual or company.
 - Look for links that say "About us," "About the Author", "Who We Are," etc.
 - Check the links to make sure they work. An "About Us" link that doesn't work equals a **red flag**.
 - A site that lists an email address, but contains no information about the author, is another **red flag**.
- **What are the author's credentials?**
 - Is this person and/or company qualified to write the information?
 - Is the site presented an educational, informational, opinions, etc., site
- **Look for indicators of quality information**
 - Are references documented with footnotes or links to the original source?
 - Check the links; do they work?
 - Has the author has used the content within context of the original site
 - Are the linked-to sites themselves reliable resources?
- **Check other resources, does the information agree?** Most facts can be checked using multiple resources.
- **Is the information current?** Some websites contain information that was valid at one time, but is now outdated, making it irrelevant.
- **Look closely** at the web address (URL) to find out what kind of site you are searching. The URL will tell you a lot about the site and its purpose.

Some Common Domain Names

.edu - education sites

.gov - government sites

.org - organization sites (usually non-profit)

.com - commercial sites

.net - network infrastructures

There are other extensions, such as the abbreviation of a country, ie. **.jp** for Japan