

IS THIS GOOD INFORMATION?

Evaluating Web Sources

When conducting research, it is important to make sure your information is **credible** (true). One way to ensure your resources are credible is to use the databases provided on the **media home page*** to do your research.

If you use the general internet to conduct research, apply the criteria below to determine the credibility of the web site you are using. If you answer “**no**” to many of the questions, the web site may **not** be a credible source.

| Answer these questions about the web site you are evaluating | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| | | |
| Did this source come from a media home page database? If yes, you are done! | | |
| Is the domain of the web site <i>.edu</i> , <i>.org</i> , or <i>.gov</i> ? | | |
| Does the page have a sponsoring agency or reputable expert? | | |
| Does the page load quickly? | | |
| Are the pictures on the page helpful? | | |
| Is only a small amount of advertising present? | | |
| Is there an author? | | |
| Does the author provide an email address and/or credentials? | | |
| Does the web page indicate the last time it was updated? | | |
| If you go to another page on the site, can you get back to the main page? | | |
| Does the title of the page tell you what it is about? | | |
| Can you tell if the information on the page is current? | | |
| Does the page lead you to other good information (links)? | | |
| Does the information on the page agree with information you found elsewhere? | | |
| Does the information seem free from bias (prejudice, partiality)? | | |

If you answered “**yes**” to many of the questions above, you **probably** have a credible source. However, be sure to follow the research guidelines established by your teacher (*i.e. he/she specifically states not to use internet sources*). If you are still unsure, ask a teacher or media specialist for a second opinion!

**Access the media home page on campus by opening Internet Explorer. If you want to access this information at home, ask for a database password sheet at the circulation desk.*