

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.*