**Credible Sources on the Internet**

What does **CREDIBLE** mean?

*convincing, able to be believed*

How do you **determine** if an Internet source is **credible**?

*Ask WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?*

**WHO** – Who is the author?

* If there is an “about” page, read it.
  + Is this person or organization an expert in their field?
  + What is their educational background?

**WHAT** – What kind of information is provided and how high is its quality?

* If the site provides a deep knowledge of your topic with references to studies and statistics, it is probably high quality.
* If the site provides only general facts, you should find better, more detailed information elsewhere.

**WHERE** – Where is this site on the web? What is the web address?

**.com** – hosted by a **com**pany, often a site for profit, advertisements on websites suggest the information will be biased, though online magazines are often .com sites. Be careful and explore further.

**.org** – hosted by a non-profit **org**anization, reliable information depending on the background and mission of the organization. Be careful and explore further.

**.edu** – hosted by an **edu**cational institution, typically reliable and expert information.

**.gov** – hosted by a government institution, typically reliable and expert information.

**WHEN** – When was it published? Is this the most up-to-date information?

**WHY** – What is the author’s, organization’s, or company’s goal in publishing this information?

* Is the goal to
  + Provide excellent information to the public? – Great!
  + Persuade the audience of an argument or opinion? – Be careful!
  + Sell the readers a product? – Move on fast!

**Organize Your Sources**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Website Name/ Article Name**  **(Italics)** | **Author**  **(Last name, First name)** | **Where? (.com/ .edu/ .gov)** | **When (was the information published)** | **What information did you take from the website?** |
| 1. |  |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |  |

**HOW TO CITE RESOURCES**

***MAKE SURE YOU GIVE CREDIT TO WHO SAID!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

**In-text Citations**

Include the name of the author or the website you have taken the information from. You do not need to use quotation marks unless you are directly quoting (word for word) what was said on the site. If you are paraphrasing or putting in your own words what the site said you still need to give credit to the source. When giving credit to the article put the title of the article in italics. Here are a couple of examples:

**Paraphrasing Example:**

In the article, *How Much do Actors get Paid*, it is stated that the average actor in the United States makes around 5 million dollars a year (Wild, William).

**Direct Quote Example:**

In regards to how much homework is too much or too little, McLeod states, “When I was in third grade, I firmly believed in homework every night,” (Fraser, Michelle).