

# Is This Source Credible?

Ask yourself these questions to help determine if a source is credible for your research.

## **Is the author identified?**

- Never use a website where an author is not identified unless the site is associated with a reputable institution, credible media outlet, government department or program, or well known non-government agency.

## **Is the author providing information objectively, or is the information biased?**

- Check to see if the author is connected to the topic in a way in which they would benefit from readers adopting a particular view.
- Both sides of a controversial issue should be presented.
- If the author does exhibit a particular bias, it should be acknowledged.

## **Did the author cite their sources?**

- Take the time to examine and verify the cited sources.

## **Does the author have qualifications and credibility in the field of study?**

- You can determine qualifications by determining their affiliation with relevant institutions, employment qualifications, or past publications.

## **How recent is your source?**

- Older sources may be accurate for topics such as historical events, but sources should be recent for rapid changing areas such as technology.

## **On what kind of web site does the information appear?**

- The type of site can provide clues about the credibility of the source. A commercial or special interest site is much more likely to provide biased information.
- The domain name within the address can help you determine what type of site you are viewing:
  - .edu = education site
  - .gov = government site
  - .org = organization site
  - .com = commercial site