

TRICKS FOR FINDING CREDIBLE WEBSITES



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INTRODUCTION: The internet is full of information, but unfortunately, it is not all reliable. Employing the following techniques will help you determine whether or not the website you are considering is worth your time.

First, ask yourself the following questions about the home page:

- Is the home page mostly advertising material? If so, the site may be dedicated to selling rather than providing information.
- Is it logically organized? It should be easy enough to find what you're looking for quickly.
- Is there contact information or a link to educational resources? A credible academic website will be connected with other scholarly links.

Second, ask the following, more detailed questions regarding the following:

Author/Publisher/Source

- Who is responsible for this information, and what are his/her credentials?
- Are they associated with a reputable institution?
- Are they qualified to write about this subject? (.edu and .gov websites are generally credible)

Accuracy

- Can the information be verified through another source?
- Is the data in charts/graphs clearly labeled?

Dates/Currency

- How recent is this information? Is the most current data important to your research?

Bias

- Does the information appear to be fact or opinion? Is the tone neutral and impartial?

In summary:

In order for the information to be useful, it should be objective, well-researched, and have the authority of a credentialed author or organization.