EVALUATING INTERNET SOURCES

Not everything you see online is true. That's why it's so important to screen websites before you use them to help with homework or for information in a school report.

Use this checklist ☑ to figure out if the online source you're using is reliable.

Evaluate the WEBSITE

☐ **What is the domain?** Look at the Web address for clues about what kind of website you're using.

✓ Reliable	? Check carefully
.edu: a school, college, or university	**.com:** a commercial business
.gov [illegible]	[illegible]

REVIEW ONLY

☐ **Is it easy to navigate?** A reliable website will make it easy to find what you need.

☐ **Are there a lot of errors?** Spelling and grammar mistakes probably mean it's not trustworthy.

School Datebooks

Evaluate the AUTHOR

☐ **Is there an author listed?** The author should be easy to identify and contact.

☐ **Is he/she an expert?** The author should be qualified to write on this subject.

☐ **Wh[illegible] he[illegible]?** An[illegible] if he or she has published other works.

DO NOT SUBMIT FOR PRINT

Evaluate the INFORMATION

☐ **Is it current and accurate?** The information should be up to date and include references.

☐ **Can you find it on other sites?** Make sure the information appears in other reliable sources, including websites, books, and articles.

☐ **Is it fact or opinion?** Be sure to note when you're using someone's opinion and when you're using proven facts.

Hint

Trust your gut! If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't.

NetSmartz.org/TipSheets

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