Credible Sources for iSearch Paper

Help the North American Tree Octopus

- https://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/

Help Send Dogs to a Better Home

- http://www.thedogisland.com/

Explorer Research—Christopher Columbus

- https://www.allaboutexplorers.com/

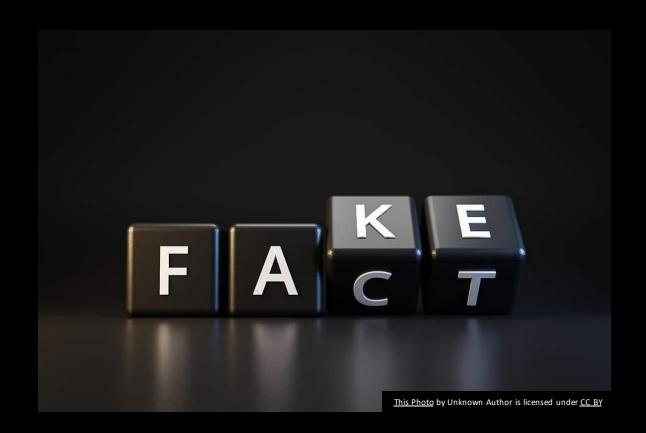# How do you know that you can trust a source?

Start with Reliable Sources

- Start with reliable source (encyclopedia, book, database) before Internet search, if possible.

- This helps build your background knowledge so that you can spot incorrect websites/information.

- Compare information between sources.

- Recognize bias within sources. Research the author of the source.

Fact Checking Websites

- Snopes https://www.snopes.com/

- Fact Check   https://www.factcheck.org/

- All Sides https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news

- Truth or Fiction https://www.truthorfiction.com/

DISCUS Databases

DISCUS—access under Library Resources in Clever
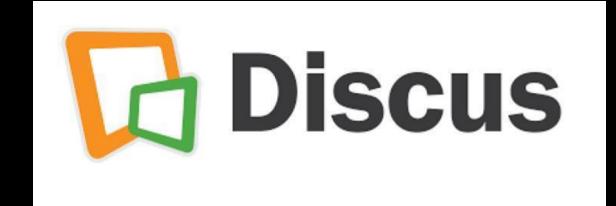
Username: discus2022

Password: start1!

Britannica School

Credo Reference

Culture Grams

Middle Search Plus

Points of View Reference Center

Domain Names

- .com/.co– stands for "commercial"; anyone can get one

- .net—stands for "network"; anyone can get one

- .org—stands for "organization"; used to be only for non-profit groups but becoming less reliable

- .edu—stands for "education"; can be K-12 or higher education; be careful with the K-12 sites

- .mil—stands for "military"; military site

- .gov—stands for "government"; federal or state government site

Other Tips for Looking at Web Addresses

Look at truncated URL—this takes you back to the homepage

~ (tilde) symbol in the URL usually indicates this is someone's personal site

https: vs. http:

C.R.A.A.P. Method
to Evaluate Sources

C Currency: The timeliness of the info

R Relevance: How the info fits your needs

A Authority: The source of the info

A Accuracy: Reliability and correctness of the info

P Purpose: The reason the info exists

Currency

When was the information published or posted?

Has the information been revised or updated?

Is the information current or out-of date for your topic?

Are the links functional?

Relevance

Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?

Who is the intended audience?

Is the information at an appropriate level (i.e. not too elementary or advanced for your needs)?

Have you looked at a variety of sources before determining this is one you will use?

Would you be comfortable using this source for a research paper?

Authority

Who is the author/publisher/source/sponsor?

Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?

What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?

What are the author's qualifications to write on the topic?

Is there contact information, such as a publisher or e-mail address?

Does the URL reveal anything about the author or source?

Accuracy

Where does the information come from?

Is the information supported by evidence?

Has the information been reviewed or refereed?

Can you verify any of the information in another source or from personal knowledge?

Does the language or tone seem biased and free of emotion?

Are there spelling, grammar, or other typographical errors?

Purpose

What is the purpose of the information? to inform? teach? sell? entertain? persuade?

Do the authors/sponsors make their intentions or purpose clear?

Is the information fact? opinion? propaganda?

Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?

Are there political, ideological, cultural, religious, institutional, or personal biases?