



JUDGING WEBSITES... JUST THE “FACS”

How do you know if a website has trustworthy information? Ask yourself the following questions to help you decide.

F	<p>How did you FIND the website?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did you use search terms that made it easy to find the site? Are the search search terms spelled correctly? Are there other terms that can be used? ● Has the site been reviewed or recommended by someone reliable?
A	<p>Who is the AUTHOR or group sponsoring the website?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is the author or group clearly identified on this site? (Look for an About section.) ● Is the author or group an expert or knowledgeable about the topic? ● Can you contact the author or sponsoring organization? ● On what type of domain is the site found? What is the author’s purpose in presenting the information? More info <p>.com: commercial (maybe trying to sell a product) .net: network, often used by internet service providers</p> <p>.edu: educational institution (college, etc.) .org: organization, not for profit</p> <p>.gov: government agency .mil: military</p>
C	<p>Is the website/page CURRENT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does the page state when it was last updated, or refer to any current dates within the information? (Look at the bottom of the page for Last Updated or a © symbol.) ● Isthe information similar to other recent books/articles on the topic? ● If there are links to other sites, do they work?
S	<p>Does the information make SENSE to you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can you find the same information in other websites, books, or articles? ● Is the content informative, or is it meant to advertise or persuade?

The following websites are recommended by your school Media Specialist for reliable information:

www.INFOhio.org Ohio’s Digital Library: Click “Grades 6-8” for access to online databases.

- Username: sylvania
- Password: infohio

www.toledolibrary.org Toledo Lucas County Public Library: Click “Research” and “Research Tools” for a list of online databases (“Homework Help” has great student resources).

- Library card #: 5000361037
- PIN #: 8640