

# Credible Sources on the Internet

What does **CREDIBLE** mean?  
*convincing, able to be believed*

How do you **determine** if an Internet source is **credible**?  
*Ask WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?*

**WHO** – Who is the author?

- If there is an “about” page, read it.
  - Is this person or organization an expert in their field?
  - Was the article or report written by a reporter?

**WHAT** – What kind of information is provided and how high is its quality?

- If the site provides only general facts, you should find better, more detailed information elsewhere.

**WHERE** – Where is this site on the web? What is the web address?

**.com** – hosted by a **company**, often a site for profit, advertisements on websites suggest the information will be biased. Be careful and explore further.

- Most newspapers and magazines have .com addresses – like [www.time.com](http://www.time.com) and <http://www.nytimes.com>. These big name newspapers and magazines are credible sources.

**.org** – hosted by a non-profit **organization**, reliable information depending on the background and mission of the organization. Be careful and explore further.

**.edu** – hosted by an **educational** institution, typically reliable and expert information.

**.gov** – hosted by a government institution, typically reliable and expert information.

**WHEN** – When was it published? Is this the most up to date information?

**WHY** – What is the author, organization, or company’s goal in publishing this information?

- Is the goal to
  - Provide excellent information to the public? – *Great!*
  - Persuade the audience of an argument or opinion? – *Be careful!*
  - Sell the readers a product? – *Move on fast!*

## Website Credibility Activity

Let’s look at some websites together that are *not credible*  
as an outside (secondary) source.

Site	Why isn’t this site credible?
------	-------------------------------

Garrett Petersen's Blog <a href="http://garrettpetersen.blogspot.com/2012/04/year-round-schooling-coming-to-bc.html">http://garrettpetersen.blogspot.com/2012/04/year-round-schooling-coming-to-bc.html</a>	
YouDebate.com <a href="http://www.youdebate.com/DEBATES/year-round_school.HTM">http://www.youdebate.com/DEBATES/year-round_school.HTM</a>	
Anti-Essays.com <a href="http://www.antiessays.com/free-essays/153330.html">http://www.antiessays.com/free-essays/153330.html</a>	

## You Try!

### Directions:

- Mark each website below as **C** for credible for **NC** for not credible, then give your reason for this determination.

C/NC	Website	Reasons
	National Education Association <a href="http://www.nea.org/tools/17057.htm">http://www.nea.org/tools/17057.htm</a>	
	Stop Year-Round School in Auburn <a href="http://www.auburn.edu/~enebasa/html/home.pp.html">http://www.auburn.edu/~enebasa/html/home.pp.html</a>	
	Juggle.com <a href="http://debates.juggle.com/are-year-round-schools-a-good-idea-that-should-be-adopted-by-private-and-public-schools">http://debates.juggle.com/are-year-round-schools-a-good-idea-that-should-be-adopted-by-private-and-public-schools</a>	
	<i>Education Week</i> <a href="http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/year-round-schooling/">http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/year-round-schooling/</a>	
	National Association for Year-Round Education <a href="http://www.nayre.org/">http://www.nayre.org/</a>	
	RamonaCreel.com <a href="http://ramonacreel.com/BlogEntry.asp?Entry=859">http://ramonacreel.com/BlogEntry.asp?Entry=859</a>	
	<i>The Washington Post</i> <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/05/AR2009060501971.html">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/05/AR2009060501971.html</a>	
	Wikipedia	

	<a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year-round_school">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year-round_school</a>	
--	---	--

Explain what difficulties and questions came up as you looked at these sites. What were you unsure about in terms of credibility?

