

Is this website reliable?

Created by Inaburra Senior Library 2019

Before you use a website, you need to stop and think about:

- Whether the information is correct
- If the information is what you need

WHO wrote the website?

Are they an expert in the topic?

How can you find out if they are an expert in the topic?

- Check the website for information about them, like qualifications or how many years they have been working in this field.
- If the website doesn't have any information about them Google their name and look for things like books or articles they have published.

WHAT information is on the website?

Is it what you actually need?

Look at it again and think about...

- Does it answer the question in your task?
- Is it too easy for you or too hard for you?
- Is this the only website you've looked at?
 - If it is, look at more! You might have missed an even better one.

Remember

How many websites you look at depends on the task. Is this a big assignment or a short homework question? The bigger the task, the more time you should spend researching.

WHERE did the website author get their information?

Did they use correct information?

How can you tell?

- Look for a bibliography at the bottom of the page.
- Look and see whether they tell you in their writing where they got certain pieces of information?
 - Have they used trustworthy sources like books or government statistics?

WHEN was the website written?

Is it still up to date?

How can you tell how old it is?

- Look for a date at the top or bottom of the page.
- Are the sources in their bibliography really old?

Whether information is out of date is especially important for subjects like Science, where new discoveries are made all the time. It isn't as important for subjects like English, which don't change much.

WHY was the website written?

What was the author's goal?

Look at the website again... is it obvious?

Is the website intended to...

- Inform?
- Persuade?
- Entertain?
- Sell something?

Are you using it the way the author meant you to?

Always remember to ask...

Who? What? Where? When? Why?