

How to use Google well in year 7 and 8

Created by Inaburra Senior Library, 2017

1. Enter your search term into Google and look at the results – are they what you expected?

Yes? Great! Go to step 3.

No? Go to step 2.

2. You'll need to be more specific. Look at the task your teacher has given you and pick more keywords to add to your search.

3. Now you'll need to work out which of the results are the most trustworthy. Anyone can put things online so not every website contains correct information.

Do any end in .gov or .edu?

.gov means it's a government website and can be trusted

.edu means it's an educational website and it's probably trustworthy... but be careful, sometimes things like student blog addresses can end in .edu, so keep an eye out for anything that says who wrote the website.

4. Depending on your topic there won't always be .gov or .edu websites so you'll need to learn how to evaluate a website to decide whether it's reliable.

Look for...

A date

Often there will be a date right at the bottom of the page. If it hasn't been updated for a long time the information might be out of date. This is especially a problem with subjects like science where new discoveries are continually being made. With other subjects like history or maths, it might not matter as much because the information doesn't go out of date as quickly.

Who wrote it?

A person? An organization? Are they experts in the subject? Did they include contact information? If you can't find any information about who wrote a website, don't trust it. If it was written by an organization you haven't heard of, try Googling the name of the organization to find out about them.

Are the spelling and grammar correct?

This will give you another clue about how reliable the website is.

References?

Does the author say where they get their information? This is another big clue about whether it's reliable or not because a trustworthy source will say where they got their information.

5. If you've decided the website is trustworthy now you need to decide whether it's useful to you.

Look at...

How much detail it goes into

Is there too much information, not enough information, or the right amount of information? If the information is very useful to you but there isn't much of it you can still use the website but you'll also need to use some others that have more detail.

Is the information too easy or too hard for you?

If the answer is yes, don't use the website. It won't be helpful for you if you don't understand the information, or if you learnt all that stuff back in year 3.