

Website: _____ URL: _____

SEARCHING FOR RELIABLE WEBSITES - TIPS

1. Try reliable search engines such as <http://www.sweetsearch.com/> or <http://scholar.google.com/>
2. Domains such as **.edu**, **.org** and **.gov** are generally more reliable but may also exhibit bias or inaccuracy
3. Be careful with personal pages or websites (URL tends to contain ~ or % or names)
4. Use the search engine's **advanced search** function to search by date or limit by domain
5. Try a reliable news source, such as a well-known newspaper or news organization (**New York Times**, **Chicago Tribune**, **CNN**).

USE CAARRDS TO HELP YOU EVALUATE WEB SOURCES

	Tips and Questions to Consider:	Passes the test? Yes/No
C REDIBILITY	Who is the author and/or sponsor? What are his/her credentials or is the organization credible? <i>Look for credentials: educational background, organization's purpose. Try searching the author's/organization's name in a search engine.</i>	
A PPEARANCE	Does the website have a professional appearance? <i>Generally do not trust articles littered with ads. Some professional looking websites can be misleading or fake. Be careful.</i>	
A CCURACY	Can facts, statistics, or other information be verified through other sources? <i>Try comparing the website information to database or book information.</i>	
R ELIABILITY	Does the source present a particular view or bias? Is the purpose to promote a specific agenda? Is this site trying to sell me something? <i>Bias is not necessarily bad, just be sure to seek the other side of the issue. Be sure to identify the organization behind the opinions.</i>	
R ELEVANCE	Does this source answer your questions and support your topic/thesis? Is there enough information to make it worthwhile? <i>Try using ctrl-F (find) to search for key terms to confirm relevance.</i>	
D ATE	When was this information created? When was it last updated? Does your information need to be more current or can it be historical? <i>Look for a current date or a date relevant to the time you are researching.</i>	
S OURCES BEHIND THE TEXT	Are references from other articles or websites cited? Are these references reliable, credible sources? <i>Copy and paste some of the references into a search engine to see if they actually exist.</i>	

Bottom Line: Is the web page as good as (or better than) what you could find in a database or book?

This website is:

- A good source Not a good source Not recommended
 Acceptable for a quote or fact but should not be used as a main source. Better information can be found.
 Acceptable for a research assignment. I will indicate the organization/author behind the information.