

Reliable and UNRELIABLE Sources

Can YOU tell the difference??

RELIABLE

- When researching, you always need to be sure that you are getting your information from reliable sources.
- Some sources are considered to be “**reliable**” because they have been written by people who are *experts in the field*.
- These are the sources you can



UNRELIABLE

- On the other hand, some sources, such as Wikipedia, are not reliable because the authors may not have a thorough knowledge or full understanding of a topic.
- Remember: anyone can post information on the internet, and we need to be **CRITICAL READERS** in order to determine what to believe!



POSSIBLE Reliable Sources

- While you still need to read critically, here is a list of the types of sources that are often reliable and would be good places to start research:
 - Books—authored, edited and published
 - Newspapers and magazines
 - Peer reviewed journals
 - Peer reviewed articles
 - PhD or MBA dissertations and research
 - Public library
 - Scholarly articles
 - Isolated studies or academic research
 - Educational institutions and their websites

How will I KNOW if its RELIABLE??

- To determine reliability of **online sites and organizations**, look at the **URL's ending**:
 - If the site ends in **.edu**, it is most likely an educational institution. Be aware, however, of political bias.
 - If the site ends in **.gov**, it is most likely a reliable government website. These sites usually provide good sources for statistics and objective reports.
 - If the site ends in **.org**, it is usually a non-profit organization.
 - These sources vary in being good or poor sources of information and you will still need to research their possible agendas and biases, if they exist
- **Online journals and magazines**:
 - Reliable journals and magazines should contain a bibliography for every article
 - Lists sources within that bibliography that can be extensive and should include scholarly, and non-Internet sources
 - THINK: do these sources (evidence) support the articles' focus/main idea?
- **News sources**:
 - Every television and print news source has a website
 - Beware! Sometimes their focus is to entertain rather than inform
 - Think of these sources as a stepping stone to more reliable sources

How will I KNOW if its UNRELIABLE??

- The following are unreliable sources because they require confirmation with a reliable source:
 - Wikipedia: although this is a good starting point for finding initial ideas about a topic, some of their information and attached resources may not be reliable
 - Blogs, tweets
 - Personal websites
 - Forums
 - Sites created by organizations that may have political or biased agendas
 - Sites that provide biased information
 - Self-published sources
 - Opinionated articles such as editorials
 - Online sources with an URL that ends in **html**, which is the basic building blocks of web pages
- Some online sources with an URL that end in **.com** are unreliable:
 - Sites of companies that conduct their business over the internet. Some of these sites are unreliable because they have hidden agendas.
 - THINK: are they trying to sell me something? A product? An idea?

Citations

Information for this Power Point
provided by Wikipedia.



Just Kidding'



Here's the REAL Reliable Source: (note that the site is .edu)

Austin Peay State University Academic Support Center Writing Lab "Reliable and Unreliable Sources" Oct 29 2012

[http://www.apsu.edu/sites/apsu.edu/files/academic-support-center/Reliable and Unreliable Sources.pdf](http://www.apsu.edu/sites/apsu.edu/files/academic-support-center/Reliable_and_Unreliable_Sources.pdf)